

Hartford Courant



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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

State lags in booster shots

A middling national ranking gave state officials reason to broaden shot eligibility to all adults

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Despite ranking as the U.S. state with the highest rate of COVID-19 vaccination among those 12 and older, Connecticut lags numer-

ous states in booster shot uptake, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows.

Per the CDC, 17.8% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents have received a booster shot, leaving the state outside the top 20 nationally.

Although the state ranks better when it comes to residents 65 and older — 45.8% of whom have gotten a booster shot — its status as a leader in vaccination has not extended to boosters.

“I don’t understand why we are the most vaccinated state in the nation and yet we’re slow to get

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“Maybe we’re rule-followers here in the Nutmeg State, and we’re waiting for the regulatory agencies to say it’s OK. Once they do say it’s OK, I think you’ll see a lot more people go out and get it.”

Dr. Tom Balcezak, chief clinical officer for Yale New Haven Health, on why the state’s booster numbers are so low



MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

AN ‘IMMENSE LEGACY’

Hall of Famer Jim Calhoun steps down as coach at Saint Joseph, capping off a career highlighted by three national titles at UConn

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

Jim Calhoun, who has written a memorable postscript to his Hall-of-Fame coaching career at the University of Saint Joseph, will step down effective immediately as the men’s basketball coach.

“You’ve got to know when it’s time,” Calhoun told the Courant Thursday. “We’re a really good team. The program is in great shape, we’re going in the right direction, now’s the time.”

Calhoun, 79, who led the UConn men to three national championships, has had numerous health issues through the years, overcoming cancer and heart disease, but said he and his wife, Pat, are in good health. He missed the first

920

Saint Joseph coach Jim Calhoun finishes his career with 920 wins — ninth on the all-time college list. The majority of those victories came at UConn, where he turned around a struggling Huskies program and won national titles in 1999, 2004 and 2011.

three games of this season with an illness from which he has recovered, but decided this week he would stop and turn the program over to Glen Miller, who has been his associate head coach, and plans to spend the holidays with his family and head to Hilton Head, South Carolina, where he has a vacation home.

“Back home in Pomfret, there’s a very happy woman right now,” Calhoun said. “Pat said, ‘I’ve got you back.’”

Calhoun retired from UConn after 26 seasons in September 2012 and spent the next several years working in TV and on other projects, including his various charitable causes. When Saint Joseph transitioned to co-ed and

Turn to Calhoun, Page 3

House on doorstep of passing social bill

Top Biden priority would bolster child care, curb drug costs

By Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A divided House moved toward passage of Democrats’ expansive social and environment bill on Thursday as new cost estimates from Congress’ top fiscal analyst suggested that moderate lawmakers’ worries about spending and deficits would be calmed, giving the bill the votes it needs for passage.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told lawmakers in a letter Thursday evening that the chamber would soon begin final debate on the sprawling legislation.

That would put the House on the doorstep of finally approving the package, a top priority for President Joe Biden that would bolster child care assistance, create free preschool, curb seniors’ prescription drug costs and beef up efforts to slow climate change.

“At the close of the debate, all that remains is to take up the vote — so that we can pass this legislation and achieve President Biden’s vision to Build Back Better!” Pelosi wrote,

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House Speaker Nancy Pelosi discusses the Build Back Better Act during a news conference Thursday. **J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP**

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Killingly board rejects vaccination clinic on school grounds

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

The Killingly Board of Education shot down a proposition to host a voluntary vaccination clinic on school grounds at its meeting Wednesday night, despite support from some parents and climbing

case numbers in the area.

The board voted 5-2 to reject the proposed clinic, which would have been in partnership with nearby Day Kimball Healthcare, with one board member abstaining. The reasons behind the board members’ vote included skepticism over the vaccine’s safety and

opposition to holding it on school property.

“I mean, we’re not going to hand out condoms and birth control at Killingly High School, are we?” said board member Jason Muscara. “We shouldn’t be doing this. If we’re going to do this, then we might as well have a Bible clinic

and hand out Bibles.”

“We’re a school, not a medical facility,” argued Janice Barbara Joly, board vice-chair.

Treatment provided at the nurse’s office “doesn’t come even close to getting something injected into your body when you’re 5 years old,” she said, suggesting a provider

might “miss” and “kill that child.”

In an October survey sent to parents from three Killingly schools, about 25% of respondents said they would like to have their children participate in a vaccination clinic, according to

Turn to Board, Page 2

Tribes, historians debate removal of Mason statue

Native American leaders and historians clashed Thursday over a state Capitol statue of Capt. John Mason, who led a colonial massacre of Pequot Indians in 1637. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

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Boosters

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boosted,” Dr. Tom Balcezak, chief clinical officer for Yale New Haven Health, said Thursday.

Acknowledging the state’s relatively low booster shot rate, state officials announced this week they are now encouraging all adults at least six months removed from their second dose to get a booster, regardless of official CDC guidelines.

“From my point of view, if you were vaccinated more than six months ago, you’re not fully vaccinated,” Gov. Ned Lamont said Thursday. “If you were vaccinated more than six months ago, now is the time to go get that booster.”

Lamont said he will not

mandate booster shots for state employees, who are required to be vaccinated, but strongly urges Connecticut adults to seek them — and vaccine providers to administer to them to all adults regardless of age, health or job.

Currently, the CDC recommends COVID-19 booster shots for recipients of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccine more than six months past their second dose who are 65 or older, who have health conditions that leave them vulnerable COVID-19, or who live or work in high-risk settings. Boosters are also available for anyone 18 or older who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago.

Those guidelines — which cover most but not all American adults — have

created some confusion about who is and isn’t eligible, but that could change soon. The New York Times reported that the F.D.A could authorize boosters of the Pfizer vaccine for all adults this week; Moderna is also seeking broader approval for its COVID-19 boosters.

Dr. Manisha Juthani, the state’s commissioner of public health, said Thursday she has heard from numerous residents who are eligible for a booster but don’t realize it — including an educator, a man with diabetes and a liquor store owner. Juthani said that confusion may help explain why more Connecticut residents haven’t gotten their booster shots.

Of course, confusion over eligibility is likely an issue nationwide. So why has

Connecticut been slower than expected to get its population booster?

Juthani said the Department of Public Health is looking into a potential data issue, in which a small number of people getting booster shots were classified as having just received their first shot. It’s also possible, she said, that Connecticut’s relatively low rates of COVID-19 over recent months have made residents feel less urgency toward getting booster shots. Many of the states with the highest booster rates are also those that have experienced recent surges.

Now, as Connecticut sees an uptick in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, Juthani hopes more residents will get their booster shots.

“All the states around us are surging, we have more cases here in Connecticut, as we’re seeing every day, and this is not an island,” Juthani said. “So even though these eligibility criteria are confusing, I think people in the state of Connecticut can feel comfortable saying they live in an area where COVID-19 is on an upward tick.”

Balcezak said he expects the state’s booster shot uptake to increase when federal regulators fully expand eligibility for boosters.

“Maybe we’re rule-followers here in the Nutmeg State, and we’re waiting for the regulatory agencies to say it’s OK,” he said. “Once they do say it’s OK, I think you’ll see a lot more people go out and get it.”

Juthani said a recent

outbreak at a North Canaan nursing home provides a strong example of the need for booster shots. Despite a high vaccination rate, the home has recorded 67 COVID-19 cases and eight deaths since late September.

“It was a highly vaccinated home, but boosters really weren’t available yet,” Juthani said. “It’s evidence of the fact that immunity does wane over time.”

Connecticut residents can sign up for booster shots at ct.gov/covidvaccine or by reaching out directly to a physician, pharmacy or other vaccine provider.

Courant staff writer Eliza Fawcett contributed to this report.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Board

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Superintendent Robert Angeli.

The respondents account for about 150 children, of about 2,300 in the district total, he said. It wasn’t clear how many children aged 5-11 are in the school system.

Connecticut’s daily positivity rate has slowly climbed upwards in recent weeks. The state reported a daily positivity rate of 3.38% on Wednesday, after it hovered below 2% for most of October.

Windham County, in which Killingly is located, has both the state’s highest positivity rate (7.27%) and the lowest vaccination rate (66.9%) among those ages 12 and up, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The board received four letters in support of the vaccination clinic, according to video of Wednesday’s meeting, but the overwhelming majority of those who spoke during an hour-long public comment period voiced their opposition to the measure.



Jason Muscara speaks at the Killingly Board of Education meeting Wednesday, when the board voted against holding a vaccination clinic on school grounds. **COURTESY**

LeeAnn Ducat, who said she grew up in Killingly and plans to return as a resident soon, suggested the clinic would be a “disruption” to the school’s learning environment and protested a perceived lack of accountability.

Ducat is a founder of Informed Choice Connecticut, a consumer rights group that opposes vaccines, and said she is a paralegal for the Vaccine Injury Compensation

Program.

Another resident compared various mandates to Nazi Germany, and went on to spread false claims about nanoparticles in the vaccine that are activated by 5G.

Although the vaccines are widely available, one parent said they supported the clinic because it would have made it easier for families to get their children vaccinated without missing long peri-

ods of school.

The parent added the vaccine was only offered in the morning at their pediatrician’s office, the place they were most comfortable receiving it. “The political and personal dynamics running through the veins of this town are unacceptably frightening,” they said.

Several residents cited research that highlighted the reduced risk of severe illness COVID-19 poses for

children, and research that cast doubt on the safety of vaccines.

“It’s a parent’s decision, but I don’t want my name put on any clinic trying to give COVID vaccines to a 5- to 11-year-old child, and I don’t think it’s appropriate for the 12 to 16 age group based on the research that I’ve done,” said board member Norm Ferron, board member.

“Sadly, the source of data these days is so politicized

that half of it has no credibility. We don’t know where it’s coming from — QAnon, or whatever,” board member Lydia Rivera-Abrams, who voted in favor of the clinic, later said.

Chairman Douglas Farrow said he was leaning toward voting to have the clinic, but was swayed by public comment made by students opposing the clinic. The students who spoke Wednesday described an atmosphere of peer pressure at Killingly schools over mask mandates and other safety measures.

“My school is imprisoning me with these mandates,” one student said. “They have harmed me in ways that I will never recover from. I will never get these two years back.”

The board approved a motion made by Muscara to instruct Angeli to talk with Day Kimball officials about holding the clinic at an alternative location.

Day Kimball could not be reached for comment by the time of publication.

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LOTTERY
Thursday, Nov. 18

PLAY3 DAY 6 9 8 **WB:** 1
PLAY4 DAY 6 9 5 7 **WB:** 1

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT 3 2 4 **WB:** 8
PLAY4 NIGHT 5 9 7 5 **WB:** 2

CASH 5 8 9 12 21 23
LUCKY FOR LIFE 7 11 24 28 29 **LB:** 9

POWERBALL 3 16 48 52 60 **PB:** 13
Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.2M
Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$74M
Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$205M

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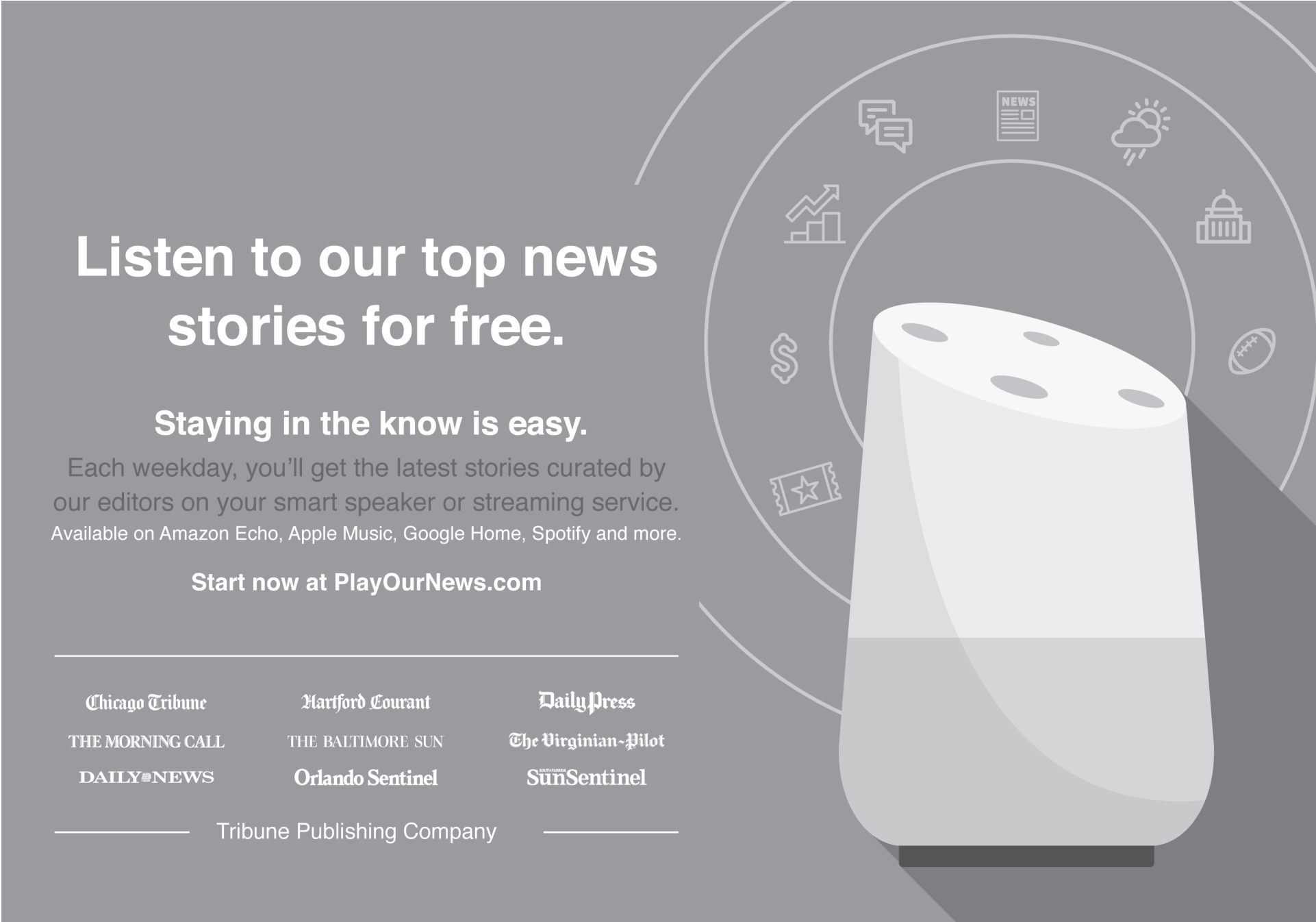
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FROM PAGE ONE

For diplomat Khalilzad, the fight continues

Man who worked on Afghan policy works to defend reputation

By Michael Crowley
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The failure to rescue Afghanistan from the Taliban weighs on many American generals and diplomats. But few had as personal a stake as Zalmay Khalilzad.

Raised in Kabul and naturalized as a U.S. citizen, Khalilzad worked on Afghanistan policy under four U.S. presidents before stepping down last month.

The battle for Afghanistan is lost, for now. But Khalilzad has embarked on a new fight: to defend his reputation against accusations that he bears special blame for the chaotic fall of Kabul, the Afghan capital, to the Taliban in August.

Khalilzad has been on a public-relations tour of sorts, sitting for numerous interviews in recent weeks to argue that he tried his best to broker peace despite vanishing leverage and an intransigent Afghan government. Calling his work incomplete, he is also applying unwelcome public pressure on the Biden administration to work with the Taliban.

His critics say the deal he reached with the Taliban under President Donald Trump was either delusional or cynical, a means

of providing thin political cover for America's abandonment of his native country.

Khalilzad "was the architect of the grand deception scheme," Amrullah Saleh, who served as Afghanistan's first vice president until the Taliban took control of Kabul, tweeted Oct. 28. He said Khalilzad treated Afghanistan "as a sacrificial goat," caring for it "to the moment of slaughter."

During a recent interview outside Washington, Khalilzad rejected such criticism with a tone of bemused forbearance.

"I respect those who say, 'This was a defining war for the future of the Islamic world, and no matter what we must prevail,'" he said. "Well, yeah. Sure, there's a lot of things I wish for — but it wasn't realistic, because they couldn't convince the presidents, Congress and others."

He added: "I tried to say, 'OK, America wants to leave militarily. But let's do also the right thing for Afghanistan.' Because given my Afghan-ness, I was very much in touch with the feelings of the Afghan people. I took the job in part to see if I could end the war also for Afghanistan, for the people."

The war ended on Khalilzad's watch, but not on the terms he had hoped. Instead of the power-sharing government he imagined could restrain the Taliban, the militant group has

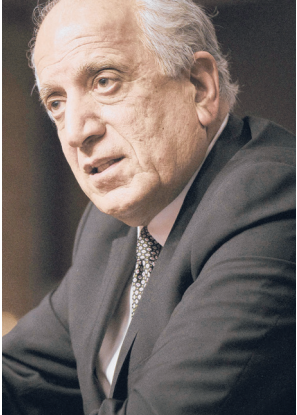
assumed total control over the country, which is now facing economic collapse and famine.

"Zal emerges from this as a quite tragic figure," said Eric Edelman, a former national security official who worked with Khalilzad under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush.

Khalilzad had been out of government for years when, during the 2016 presidential campaign, he introduced Trump for a foreign policy speech hosted by a think tank with which he was affiliated. A lifelong Republican, Khalilzad did not endorse Trump, noting his "provocative views." But the introduction earned him goodwill in Trump's inner circle.

Then, in 2018, Khalilzad told officials in the Trump administration that Taliban representatives were interested in talking about a peace agreement. That September, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo appointed him envoy for "the singular mission" of "developing the opportunities to get the Afghans and the Taliban to come to a reconciliation."

In practice, however, the talks focused on the terms of the U.S. withdrawal that Trump sought. Eighteen months and hundreds of hours of bartering in Qatar produced an agreement in February 2020 under which the United States agreed to withdraw all its troops and



Zalmay Khalilzad testifies in April before a Senate committee in Washington. T.J. KIRKPATRICK/THE NEW YORK TIMES

the Taliban promised to halt attacks on U.S. forces and never harbor terrorist groups.

The deal also included a Taliban pledge to begin direct talks with the U.S.-backed government in Kabul, as Pompeo had directed. But the Afghan government was reluctant, and the Taliban seemed unwilling to compromise on their goal to establish a religiously based Islamic emirate.

Critics say Khalilzad negotiated little more than a relatively safe U.S. retreat.

"I believe Ambassador Khalilzad was not willing to make concessions to the Taliban and to throw the Afghan government under the bus," said Lisa Curtis, who worked closely with Khalilzad in the Trump

administration as the National Security Council's senior director for South and Central Asia. "It was clear to many people that the Taliban was not interested in a peace process, but only in pursuing a military path to power."

Khalilzad's supporters say that he was handed an impossible task when he joined the Trump administration.

"I've been very critical of the February 2020 agreement that he negotiated," Edelman said. "But I will say in his defense: Trump cut the legs out from under it. What kind of negotiating leverage does he have when the president is repeatedly saying, 'We're going to get the hell out of Afghanistan!'"

On Feb. 29, 2020, Khalilzad signed a four-page agreement that pledged the withdrawal of all U.S. troops by the following May.

"Today is a day for hope," Khalilzad said, sitting next to Taliban leader Abdul Ghani Baradar in Doha, Qatar.

In the months afterward, U.S. troops began to draw down.

In April, President Joe Biden announced that he would fulfill Trump's pledge to withdraw troops by September. But Khalilzad said that "(Secretary of State Antony) Blinken, like myself and others, would have preferred a conditions-based approach, I

believe."

Khalilzad continued to pursue a political settlement. With the Taliban demanding the resignation of President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan as a first step toward a transitional government, Khalilzad pressed him to accede.

Ghani refused. Critics say that Khalilzad's pressure undermined the Afghan leader while legitimizing the Taliban.

As the Taliban closed in on Kabul in mid-August, Ghani fled the country, and his government collapsed. The war was finally over.

Khalilzad stayed on for several more weeks, helping to evacuate Americans and at-risk Afghans and pressing the Taliban to form an inclusive government that respects human rights.

On Oct. 18, Khalilzad submitted his resignation. America's engagement with Afghanistan has entered a new phase, he said, one in which he was more useful as an independent voice — particularly to make the case that the United States must work with the Taliban to help avert Afghanistan's collapse into anarchy that could lead to a surge of refugees and breed terrorism.

Asked whether he thought he would set foot again in the country of his birth, Khalilzad did not pause.

"Definitely," he said. "The struggle for Afghanistan continues."

Calhoun

from Page 1

began making plans to start a Division III men's basketball program, Calhoun was asked for advice.

One thing led to another, and he ended up taking on the task in the fall of 2017, a move that brought national attention to the small West Hartford campus before a game was played.

With Calhoun on campus, Saint Joseph's enrollment surged beyond expectations for both male and female students. The school reached its goal of 900 in 2018, four years ahead of its projections.

"Coach Calhoun has stayed longer and done more for USJ than I could ever have hoped when we first talked to him about launching our men's basketball team," USJ president Rhona Free said in a university statement, "and with it, the transition to coeducation almost five years ago. No student-athlete could have a better coach and advocate; he monitors and cares about their performance and success in every aspect of their lives. While nobody can replace Coach Calhoun, we're fortunate that Glen Miller has been here throughout and can continue to build the program and lead this team to another successful season."

Calhoun hired Miller, his longtime assistant at UConn, and they built a team, nearly all freshmen, that went 16-12 in their first year, losing in the GNAC final.

In his second year, the Blue Jays went 26-3, including a 25-game winning streak, reaching the NCAA Division III tournament. Meanwhile, with his presence as a spark, Saint Joseph was able



Jim Calhoun came out of retirement to start the men's program at the University of Saint Joseph in 2017. He will step down with a 47-17 record at the Division III school he led to the national tournament in his second year. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

to complete a \$15 million renovation of its facilities on campus. The school played four games during the COVID-19 pandemic-marred 2020-21 season, winning two. Calhoun said he did not want to step aside off that note, and before this season began, he said he had no plans to stop coaching.

St. Joseph opened the new arena with victories over Maine-Augusta and Alvernia on Nov. 6 and 7. The Blue

Jays, ranked ninth in the Div. III preseason poll, won at Babson on Wednesday night. Calhoun finishes with 920 career victories at Northeastern (1972-85), UConn (1986-2012) and Saint Joseph, where he leaves with a record of 47-17, his highest winning percentage.

At UConn, Calhoun turned a struggling program which had been near the bottom of the Big East into a national power, winning the

NIT in his second season, reaching the NCAA's Elite Eight in his fourth season and winning national titles in 1999, 2004 and 2011. The players he left behind were an integral part in the Huskies' fourth championship, 2014. He was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in 2005.

Miller, 58, who was a highly successful Division III coach at Connecticut College and later a head

coach at Brown and Penn, has often taken over for Calhoun when health problems forced him off the court.

Calhoun, who met with his team Thursday afternoon to deliver the news, said he will remain a presence with Saint Joseph and be available to take on tasks for the school. Saint Joseph plans a virtual news conference on Friday.

"Coach Calhoun's

immense legacy has impacted our campus community in so many ways," said Saint Joseph AD Amanda Devitt. "More importantly, his big personality, his wonderful wit, and his deep love for our student-athletes have changed countless lives. We are forever grateful for his influential work at USJ."

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House

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using Biden's name for the measure.

An initial batch of key figures released by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office showed that its projections were aligning closely with earlier estimates from the White House. That included tax credits to spur clean energy development, a new required paid family leave program, bolstered child care assistance and caps on seniors' prescription drug costs.

Two weeks after centrists' objections forced Democrats to delay the measure, the bill began moving amid optimistic signs from leaders and lawmakers that their divisions were all but resolved — for now.

Facing uniform Republican opposition, Democrats can lose no more than three votes to prevail in the House.

The CBO was expected to estimate that the bill's overall cost would be modestly higher than the 10-year, \$1.85 trillion price tag Democrats have been citing. It was also expected to project the measure would produce deficits of perhaps \$200 billion over a decade.

Biden and other Democratic leaders have said the measure would pay for itself, largely through tax increases on the wealthy, big corporations and companies doing business abroad. Early signs were that CBO's numbers were unlikely to derail the legislation, which exceeds 2,100 pages.

"Each of these investments on its own will make

an extraordinary impact on the lives of American families," said House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., ticking off the bill's initiatives.

Noting that savings would come from higher levies on the rich and corporations, he added, "It's a helluva deal."

Republicans said the legislation would damage an economy already racked by inflation, give tax breaks to some wealthy taxpayers and make government bigger and more intrusive.

Missouri Rep. Jason Smith, the Budget Committee's top Republican, used alliteration from Biden's name for the measure — Build Back Better — to mock it.

"Bankrupts the economy. Benefits the wealthy. And it builds the Washington machine," Smith said.

The debate came with Democrats hoping to move toward delivering a badly needed victory for Biden. For months, the bill has been delayed by infighting between party moderates and progressives over the measure's cost and the policies it should include.

Biden this week signed a \$1 trillion package of highway and other infrastructure projects, which he has spent recent days promoting around the country. But he has been battered recently by falling approval numbers in polls, reflecting voters' concerns over inflation, supply chain delays and the persistent coronavirus pandemic.

After months of talks, lawmakers appeared eager to wrap it up, shelving lingering differences to begin selling the package back home.

House Democrats said they were planning 1,000 events across the country by year's end to pitch the measure's benefits to voters.

Democrats have struggled to explain the far-reaching scope of the bill, with its health, child care and other provisions affecting millions of Americans. The internal battling has often overshadowed the actual bill, weighing down Democrats as they prepare for midterm elections next year.

House passage of the social and environment bill would send it to the 50-50 Senate, where Democrats have zero votes to spare.

Significant changes there are likely due to cost-cutting demands by moderate Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va.

Senate talks could take weeks, and the prospect that Manchin or others

will force additional cuts in the measure was making it easier for House moderates to back the legislation Thursday. The altered bill would have to return to the House before going to Biden's desk.

Even as lawmakers debated the legislation, Democrats were set to change it before the House votes to make sure it doesn't run afoul of Senate rules. Democrats are using special rules so the bill can pass the Senate by a simple majority, not the usual 60 votes, but such legislation must follow certain budget constraints.

When moderates delayed House passage of the bill two weeks ago, they said they wanted to make sure the CBO's projections for its costs were similar to White House numbers, which showed the measure essentially paid for itself.

North American summit returns

Plenty of differences remain among US, Canada, Mexico

By Aamer Madhani, Rob Gillies and Maria Verza
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden launched into three-way diplomacy with the leaders of Canada and Mexico on Thursday, celebrating the return of near-annual summits that went dormant during the Trump years. But there were still plenty of differences to sort through over trade, immigration and other matters.

Biden met first with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, calling their two countries' relationship one of the easiest in the early going of his presidency.

But as Biden and Trudeau sat down for talks, the president also confirmed that the two leaders had to discuss their differences over proposed electric vehicle tax incentives in his massive social services and climate bill that are causing concern in Ottawa.

"We're going to talk about that," Biden said. "It hasn't even passed yet in the House."

Biden later met with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, and the three leaders were then meeting together. Trudeau and Lopez Obrador also met separately with Vice President Kamala Harris.

Donald Trump had an icy relationship with Lopez Obrador's predecessor, pressing Enrique Pena Nieto to never publicly say that Mexico wouldn't pay for a southern U.S. border wall.



President Joe Biden, right, welcomes Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday in the Oval Office. EVAN VUCCI/AP

But Lopez Obrador appeared to reach a one-issue understanding with Trump: Mexico slowed the flow of Central American migrants trying to reach the U.S. border, and Trump often appeared to turn a blind eye to just about every other facet in the complicated relationship.

Lopez Obrador offered warm words for Biden when they appeared before the cameras at the start of their meeting Thursday.

The Mexican president drove home that Biden is treating his government with respect, something he noted has not always been a given in the two countries' long history.

"From the first time we talked over the phone with the president already in office, he mentioned that we would not be seen as the backyard of the United States, and we are thankful for that," Lopez Obrador said of Biden.

Canada, meanwhile, is concerned about a provision in Biden's spending plan that would offer American consumers a \$7,500 tax credit if they buy electric vehicles through 2026. The following year, only purchases of electric vehicles made in the U.S. would qualify for the credit. The base credit would go up by \$4,500 if the vehicle was made at a U.S. plant that

operates under a union-negotiated collective bargaining agreement.

The union provision has sparked pushback from some non-union shops and lawmakers.

As Biden, Trudeau and Lopez Obrador resume the tradition of the North America Leaders' Summit, the three allies also face deep differences on migration and climate issues.

There's "not that much in common between them, at least in their vision for what they want for their countries," said Kenneth Frankel, president of the Canadian Council for the Americas.

Thursday's meetings at the White House mark the

first trilateral get-together for North American leaders since a June 2016 gathering of Trudeau, Nieto and President Barack Obama in Ottawa. The gatherings took a hiatus under Trump, who feuded with Trudeau and Nieto.

Biden has made some progress in repairing relations with U.S. neighbors, but many significant strains remain — and some new ones have emerged.

Mexico's priorities heading into the summit were to obtain concrete advances on immigration and more equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

The U.S. and Canada, meanwhile, have expressed

frustration that Lopez Obrador has failed to get on board with global efforts to curb climate emissions. The Mexican president skipped this month's U.N. climate summit in Scotland.

Lopez Obrador's government, for its part, wants promised U.S. development funds for the Northern Triangle countries of Central America to be firmed up. The Mexican leader continues to press the U.S. to fund an expansion of his tree-planting program to Central America.

Mexico has worked with the United States — under Trump and Biden — to control migrant flows and assist in returning migrants to Central America. The two countries are still negotiating the court-ordered reimplementation of a Trump-era policy known as Remain in Mexico, which forced asylum seekers to wait out their U.S. asylum process in Mexico.

Lopez Obrador has also mentioned on multiple occasions his interest in the U.S. government expanding its temporary work visa program so more Mexicans and Central Americans can fill the demand for labor in the U.S. The temporary workers in turn could have access to the higher pay they seek in the U.S. without becoming part of the illegal immigration flow.

Trudeau and Biden are also expected to discuss the future of an oil pipeline that crosses part of the Great Lakes and is the subject of rising tension over whether it should be shut down. Biden is caught in a battle over Enbridge's Line 5, a part of the pipeline network that carries Canadian oil across the U.S. Midwest.

Wuhan vendor called 1st known COVID-19 case

New report revives debate on how virus began, then spread

By Carl Zimmer, Benjamin Mueller and Chris Buckley
The New York Times

A scientist who has pored over public accounts of early COVID-19 cases in China reported Thursday that an influential World Health Organization inquiry had likely gotten the early chronology of the pandemic wrong.

The new analysis suggests that the first known patient sickened with the coronavirus was a vendor in a large Wuhan animal market, not an accountant who lived many miles from it.

The report, published Thursday in the journal Science, will revive, although certainly not settle, the debate over whether the pandemic started with a spillover from wildlife sold at the market, a leak from a Wuhan virology lab or some other way. The search for the origins of the greatest public health catastrophe in a century has fueled geopolitical battles, with few new facts emerging in recent months to resolve the question.

The scientist, Michael Worobey, a leading expert in tracing the evolution of viruses at the University of Arizona, came upon timeline discrepancies by combing through what had already been made public in medical journals, as well as video interviews in a Chinese news outlet with people believed to have the first two documented infections.

Worobey argues that the vendor's ties to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, as well as a new analysis of the earliest hospitalized patients' connections to the market, suggest that the pandemic began there.

"In this city of 11 million people, half of the early cases are linked to a place that's the size of a soccer field," Worobey said. "It becomes very difficult to explain that pattern if the outbreak didn't start at the market."

Several experts, including one of the pandemic investigators chosen by the WHO, said Worobey's detective work was sound and that the first known case of COVID-19 was most likely a seafood vendor.

But some of them also said the evidence was still insufficient to settle the larger question of how the pandemic began. They

suggested that the virus probably infected a "patient zero" sometime before the vendor's case and then reached critical mass to spread widely at the market. Studies of changes in the virus's genome — including one done by Worobey — have suggested that the first infection happened in roughly mid-November 2019, weeks before the vendor got sick.

"I don't disagree with the analysis," said Jesse Bloom, a virus expert at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. "But I don't agree that any of the data are strong enough or complete enough to say anything very confidently, other than that the Huanan Seafood Market was clearly a superspreading event."

Bloom also noted that this was not the first time the WHO report, done in collaboration with Chinese researchers, was found to contain mistakes, including errors involving early patients' potential links to the market.

"It's just kind of mind-boggling that in all of these cases, there keep being inconsistencies about when this happened," he said.

Toward the end of December 2019, doctors at several Wuhan hospitals



Children prepare to receive a COVID-19 vaccination last week in Wuhan, China. A vendor at a Wuhan animal market may have been the first person diagnosed with the virus. GETTY-AFP

noticed mysterious cases of pneumonia arising in people who worked at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, a dank and poorly ventilated space where seafood, poultry, meat and wild animals were sold. On Dec. 30, public health officials told hospitals to report any new cases linked to the market.

Fearing a replay of severe acute respiratory syndrome, which emerged from Chinese animal markets in 2002, Chinese officials ordered the Huanan market closed, and Wuhan police officers shut it down

Jan. 1, 2020. Despite those measures, new cases multiplied through Wuhan.

Wuhan authorities said on Jan. 11, 2020, that cases had begun Dec. 8.

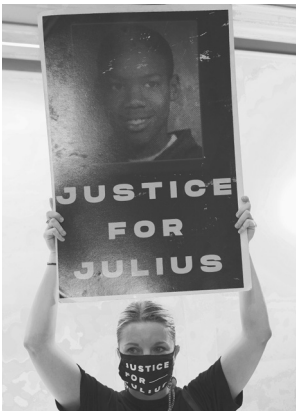
In February, they identified the earliest patient as a Wuhan resident with the surname Chen, who fell sick Dec. 8 and had no link to the market.

In January of this year, researchers chosen by the WHO visited China and interviewed an accountant who had reportedly developed symptoms Dec. 8. Their March 2021 report

described him as the first known case.

But Peter Daszak, a disease ecologist at EcoHealth Alliance who was part of the WHO team, said that he was convinced by Worobey's analysis that they had been wrong.

The WHO team never asked the accountant the date his symptoms began, he said. Instead, they were given the Dec. 8 date by doctors from Hubei Xinhua Hospital, who handled other early cases but did not care for Chen. "So the mistake lies there," Daszak said.



Kellie Mogg holds a sign in support of Julius Jones on Wednesday. DOUG HOKE/ THE OKLAHOMAN

Oklahoma governor grants clemency, sparing prisoner's life

By Sean Murphy
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma's governor spared the life of Julius Jones on Thursday, just hours before his scheduled execution that had drawn widespread outcry and protests over doubts about his guilt in the slaying of a businessman more than 20 years ago.

Gov. Kevin Stitt commuted the 41-year-old Jones' death sentence to life imprisonment. He had been

scheduled for execution at 4 p.m.

"After prayerful consideration and reviewing materials presented by all sides of this case, I have determined to commute Julius Jones' sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole," Stitt said in a news release.

A crowd of Jones' supporters at the Oklahoma Capitol broke out into loud applause and cheers when the decision was announced shortly after noon Thursday,

and more than 100 supporters who had gathered outside the prison in McAlester erupted in cheers.

"It's a day to recognize all the people who have come together to be able to fight for Julius," said Rev. Keith Jossell, Jones' spiritual adviser.

Jones' mother released a statement expressing her gratitude.

"For over 20 years, I have been haunted by the idea of watching my baby boy die in an execution chamber

for a murder that occurred when he was home with his family," Madeline Davis-Jones said. "I still believe that every day Julius spends behind bars is an injustice, and I will never stop speaking out for him or fighting to free him."

Earlier Thursday, Jones' attorneys filed a last-minute emergency request seeking a temporary stop to his execution, saying Oklahoma's lethal injection procedures pose a "serious and substantial risk of severe suffering

and pain to prisoners." The lawyers cited last month's execution in which John Marion Grant convulsed and vomited as he was put to death.

Jones was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to die for the 1999 shooting death of Paul Howell, a businessman from Edmond, during a carjacking. Jones alleges he was framed by the actual killer, a high school friend and co-defendant who was a key witness against him.

WORLD & NATION

Sudanese migrants face fresh fears

Many want to stay in Israel after coup in African country

By Jack Jeffery
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — For nearly 10 years, Monim Haroon has only known one home: Israel. Like thousands of Sudanese migrants, he lives and works without legal status, fearing that a return to his native land would be a death sentence.

Israel's normalization of ties with Sudan, announced last year, had raised fears among the migrants that they would lose their migrant status and be forced to return. Now, weeks after a military coup derailed Sudan's transition to democracy, they dread being forcibly returned to a country under the full control of generals blamed for past atrocities.

"I am not against normalization," said Haroon. "But the normalization should be through the civilian Sudanese government." The asylum-seekers' plight points to one of the less savory aspects of the so-called Abraham Accords, a series of deals reached between Israel and four Arab countries last year. The U.S.-brokered agreements with Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco — widely hailed as a breakthrough in Mideast diplomacy — were struck with unelected Arab leaders with little tolerance for dissent who were richly rewarded by the Trump administration.

Sudan's military leaders, the driving force behind the agreement, secured the country's removal from the U.S. list of terrorism sponsors, unlocking vital international aid and commerce.

But then last month, Sudan's top military leader, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, disbanded the transitional



A Sudanese migrant family in a closed restaurant in south Tel Aviv, Israel. Many of the migrants find it a struggle to make ends meet. ODED BALILTY/AP 2020

government and ordered the arrest of civilian leaders, quashing hopes of a democratic transition after the 2019 overthrow of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

The coup, which has been condemned by the United States and other Western nations, has left Israel in a potentially awkward situation.

Israel has been silent on the coup and its aftermath, indicating it intends to maintain normalized ties. A report on the Israeli news site Walla that an Israeli delegation had secretly visited Sudan to meet with the coup leaders deepened migrant fears that they could soon be deported. The Israeli Foreign Ministry and Sudanese officials did not respond to requests for comment.

Sudanese and Eritrean migrants began arriving in Israel in 2005, with many of the Sudanese fleeing persecution in the western Darfur

region and the south.

Israel initially did little to stop the influx, but as more migrants arrived, the authorities began detaining thousands in remote desert prisons.

And in 2013, Israel completed construction of a fenced barrier along its border with Egypt that mostly halted the migration.

The migrants' presence has sparked a backlash among many Israelis who associate them with the crime and poverty in south Tel Aviv, where most of them settled. Right-wing governments in recent years have made various attempts to expel them.

Ayelet Shaked, a prominent right-wing politician, has described Sudanese migrants as "infiltrators" and said they should be sent back since ties have been normalized. She is now the interior minister in Israel's new government, a position that oversees immigration

policies.

The Interior Ministry said the status of Sudanese migrants has not changed following the coup but declined to answer further questions.

Israel has resolved a small fraction of the thousands of Eritrean and Sudanese asylum claims, deeming the vast majority to be economic migrants. Under international law, Israel cannot deport migrants back to countries where their life or basic freedoms are seriously threatened.

Most of the estimated 28,000 Sudanese and Eritrean migrants work in menial jobs and struggle to make ends meet. Their numbers have dwindled by half since the 2000s, with most traveling onward to third countries, considering it unsafe to return home.

In 2012, Israel ordered the deportation of over 1,000 migrants back to South Sudan after it gained

independence, arguing that it was safe for them to go home. Those who voluntarily returned were given a about \$1,000. The move was criticized by rights groups following South Sudan's descent into civil war in 2013.

Stuck in Israeli legislative limbo, most African migrants are barred from basic social rights such as sick pay and driving licenses and are also subject to financial penalties.

Among the most controversial of these was the "Deposit Law," which limited asylum seekers to accessing only 80% of their salaries while they remained in Israel. The law, which returned the remainder of their salaries only if they left the country, was reversed in 2020.

In April, Israel's Supreme Court ordered the Interior Ministry to resolve thousands of the unanswered Sudanese asylum claims by

the end of the year or grant them temporary residency.

Sudan was absent from anniversary commemorations of the Abraham Accords earlier this fall. As Israel and the other three nations trumpeted high-level visits and opened embassies, there has been little on the Sudan front beyond a surprise meeting between Israeli and Sudanese officials in the UAE weeks before the coup. Sudan also said in September that it would seize the assets of companies linked to Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that rules Gaza.

Haim Koren, former Israeli ambassador to Egypt and South Sudan, attributed the delays to concerns by Sudanese officials over whether Israel's new government and the Biden administration would follow through on the promises of the normalization agreement.

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WORLD & NATION

Pingpong balls not in Biden’s favor

GOP-heavy court to hear challenges on shot mandate

By Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

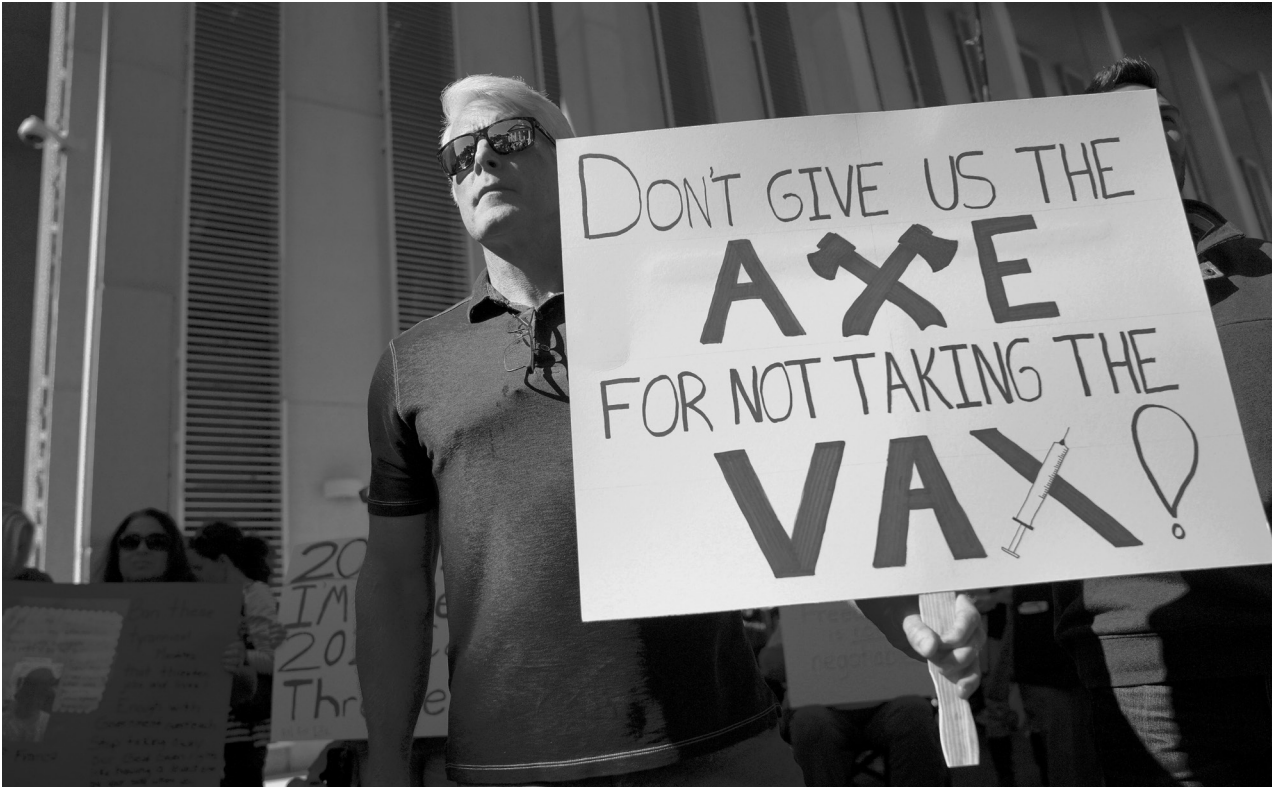
Challenges to President Joe Biden’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate for private employers will be consolidated in the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, a panel dominated by judges appointed by Republicans.

The Cincinnati-based court was selected Tuesday in a random drawing using pingpong balls, a process employed when challenges to certain federal agency actions are filed in multiple courts.

The selection could be good news for those challenging the administration’s vaccine requirement, which includes officials in 27 Republican-led states, employers and several conservative and business organizations. They argue the Occupational Safety and Health Administration does not have the authority to impose the mandate.

The challenges, along with some from unions that said the mandate didn’t go far enough, were made this month in 12 circuit courts. Under an arcane system, it was up to the clerk of the Judicial Panel on Multi-district Litigation to select a pingpong ball from a bin to choose where the cases would be heard.

It was a favorable outcome for Republicans. Eleven of the 16 full-time judges in the 6th Circuit were appointed by Republican presidents. Accounting for one of the Republican-appointed judges, Helene White, who often sides with judges appointed by Democrats and adding senior judges who are semi-retired but still hear cases, the split is 19-9 in favor of Republicans. Six of the full-time judges were appointed by former President Donald Trump.



A protester holds a sign as anti-vaccine mandate demonstrators rally Tuesday in Tallahassee, Florida. **REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP**

Another court where a majority of judges were nominated by Republicans, the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, issued a ruling that put the mandate on hold.

It’s not clear whether the court that will hear the case will act as the 5th Circuit did and side quickly with GOP challengers. But legal experts have become concerned in recent years about the politicization of both federal and state courts, raising questions about whether justice is fairly administered or dispensed through a partisan lens.

Allison Orr Larsen, a professor at William & Mary Law School, coauthored a study published this year that found growing partisanship in federal judicial decisions. For decades, the study found that rulings on cases in which all judges in a circuit weighed in generally were not decided along party lines based on the presidents who appointed the judges.

“We did see a concerning spike starting in 2018 that led us to wring our hands,” Larsen said.

The increasing partisanship in a branch of government that is supposed to be blind to partisan politics was seen in judges appointed by presidents of both parties, but Larsen said it’s not clear why that was or whether it will last.

Some of the federal courts moved to the right when Trump was president and Republicans controlled the U.S. Senate, which confirms judicial nominees. Trump appointed 54 judges to the circuit courts, which are one step below the U.S. Supreme Court, including filling one seat twice. That represents nearly 30% of the seats on the circuit courts, where cases are most often considered by three-judge panels.

Trump’s appointees flipped the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit to Republican control and expanded the GOP-appointed majorities in the 5th, 6th and St. Louis-

based 8th Circuits. Biden’s three appointees switched the New York-based 2nd Circuit to Democratic control.

Republican state attorneys general and conservative groups mostly filed their challenges in circuit courts dominated by conservative judges, while the unions went to circuits with more judges nominated by Democratic presidents.

In all, 34 objections have been filed in all 11 regional circuits plus the one for the District of Columbia. That’s where the pingpong balls came in to play.

Under federal law, cases challenging federal agency actions get consolidated upon the agency’s request if they are filed in multiple circuit courts. Each circuit where a challenge is filed within the first 10 days of the agency taking action has an equal chance of being selected.

It was up to the judicial panel’s clerk, John Nichols, to select a pingpong ball

from a bin, according to a Tuesday court filing by the panel. The office denied a request by Associated Press to allow media access to the drawing.

Previously this year, the lottery had been used to assign just two cases. One involved fallout from a National Labor Relations Board ruling on an anti-union Twitter message by Tesla founder Elon Musk where objectors filed in two circuits. The other was over orders from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in which objectors filed in three.

The employer vaccine mandate calls for businesses with more than 100 workers to require employees to be vaccinated by Jan. 4 or wear masks and be tested weekly for COVID-19. Exemptions are provided for religious reasons and for those who work at home or only outdoors.

Because it’s an unusual rule from the workplace safety agency, there is no

consensus among lawyers on how the challenges will go. OSHA has issued just 10 emergency rules since it was formed in 1971. Of the six challenged in court, only one survived intact.

The Biden administration has insisted it’s on strong legal footing. It also has the backing of the American Medical Association, which filed papers in support of the mandate.

“The AMA’s extensive review of the medical literature demonstrates that COVID-19 vaccines authorized or approved by FDA are safe and effective, and the widespread use of those vaccines is the best way to keep COVID-19 from spreading within workplaces,” the group said.

Among those challenging the rule is a consortium of construction contractors. They say they want their workers vaccinated, but that a requirement only on larger companies is just pushing vaccine-hesitant workers to take jobs with companies that have fewer than 100 employees.

“Crafting an unworkable rule that will do little to get construction workers vaccinated is an approach that is not only wrong, but likely counterproductive,” said Scott Casabona, president of Signatory Wall and Ceiling Contractors Alliance.

Officials with the workplace safety agency say they’re considering extending the mandate to smaller employers.

A three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit extended the stay of the OSHA rule in an opinion released Nov. 12, expressing skepticism that the agency had authority to implement the vaccine requirement. The 6th Circuit could modify, revoke or extend the stay.

It had not yet been determined which judges from the 6th Circuit will be on a three-judge panel to hear the case or whether it will be considered by all the judges.



Critical care nurses and respiratory therapists work on a COVID-19 patient in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. The Midwest is seeing a surge in new cases. **AARON LAVINSKY/STAR TRIBUNE 2020**

Virus surging in Midwest as states expand booster shots

By Ed White
Associated Press

A surge in cases in the Upper Midwest has some Michigan schools keeping students at home ahead of Thanksgiving and the military sending medical teams to Minnesota to relieve hospital staffs overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients.

The worsening outlook in the Midwest comes as boosters are being made available to everyone in a number of locations. Massachusetts and Utah became the latest to say anyone 18 or older can roll up a sleeve for a booster shots, and an advisory committee for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is meeting Friday to discuss expanding boosters.

Cold weather states are dominating the fresh wave of cases over the last seven days, including New Hampshire, North Dakota and Wisconsin, according to federal data. But the Southwest had trouble spots, too, with more than 90% of inpatient hospital beds occupied in Arizona.

In Detroit, where only 35% of eligible residents were fully vaccinated, the

school district said it would switch to online learning on Fridays in December because of rising COVID-19 cases, a need to clean buildings and a timeout for “mental health relief.”

Detroit health officer Denise Fair Razo said new cases have skyrocketed in the city in the last 14 days to 3,858, compared to 2,322 in the previous two-week period.

“We’re in Michigan so we’re not finding ourselves spending time outdoors in flip-flops and tank tops,” Fair Razo said. “We are indoors and we’re frankly becoming a little bit too relaxed. We’re no longer wearing our masks. We’re no longer washing our hands as frequently as we should. But we know these precautions.”

Elsewhere in Michigan, some schools are taking next week off for the Thanksgiving holiday instead of just three days.

In Minnesota, the U.S. Defense Department will send two 22-member medical teams to Hennepin County Medical Center and St. Cloud Hospital next week to treat patients and assist weary health care

workers.

“I need Minnesotans to recognize, as we’ve been saying, this is a dangerous time,” Gov. Tim Walz said in pushing vaccinations.

Vermont Gov. Phil Scott is calling legislators into a special session next week to pass a bill giving local governments the power to adopt temporary mask mandates. He has been opposed to a statewide mask order even as Vermont’s new daily cases approach numbers not seen since the earliest days of the pandemic.

The U.S. is averaging nearly 87,000 new cases per day, up from 72,000 two weeks ago, and hospitalizations are starting to increase after steadily falling since the peak of the summer delta variant surge. The country is averaging more than 1,100 deaths a day, and the number of Americans to die from COVID-19 is at 768,000.

About 59% of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated, or about 195 million Americans. Officials are urging more people to get vaccinated, especially the 60 million people who have yet to receive a first dose.

Defense rests after Ga. shooter details moments before shots

By Russ Bynum
and Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — The man who killed Ahmaud Arbery testified Thursday that Arbery did not speak, show a weapon or threaten him in any way before he raised his shotgun and pointed it at the 25-year-old Black man.

Travis McMichael was among only seven total defense witnesses called to the witness stand before attorneys for all three of the white defendants rested Thursday afternoon.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley scheduled closing arguments Monday.

Under cross-examination by the prosecution on his second day of testimony, McMichael said he was “under the impression” that Arbery could be a threat because he was running at him and he had seen Arbery trying to get into the truck of a neighbor who had joined in a pursuit of Arbery in their coastal Georgia neighborhood.

“All he’s done is run away from you,” prosecutor Linda Dunikoski said. “And you pulled out a shotgun and pointed it at him.”

Cellphone video from the Feb. 23, 2020, shooting — replayed in court Thursday — shows Arbery running around the back of McMichael’s pickup after McMichael first points the shotgun while standing next to the open driver’s side door.

Arbery then runs around the passenger side as McMichael moves to the front and the two come face to face. The truck blocks any view of them until the first gunshot sounds.

McMichael’s testimony Wednesday marked the first time any of the three men charged with murder in Arbery’s death has spoken publicly about the killing. He said that Arbery forced him to make a split-second



Prosecutor Linda Dunikoski presents evidence Thursday during the trial of three men accused of Ahmaud Arbery’s killing in Brunswick, Ga. **SEAN RAYFORD/AP POOL PHOTO**

decision by attacking him and grabbing his shotgun.

Dunikoski noted that’s not what McMichael told police two hours after the shooting.

“So you didn’t shoot him because he grabbed the barrel of your shotgun,” Dunikoski said. “You shot him because he came around that corner and you were right there and you just pulled the trigger immediately.”

“No, I was struck,” McMichael replied. “We were face to face, I’m being struck and that’s when I shot.”

McMichael said he had approached Arbery because neighbors indicated something had happened down the road and he wanted to ask Arbery about it. Arbery was running in the Brunswick neighborhood at the time.

He said Arbery stopped, then took off running when McMichael told him police were on the way.

Asked how many times he had previously pulled up behind strangers in the neighborhood to ask them what they were doing there, McMichael said never.

“You know that no one has to talk to anyone they don’t want to talk to, right?” Dunikoski said.

McMichael and his father, Greg McMichael,

armed themselves and pursued Arbery in a pickup truck after he ran past their home from the house under construction. A neighbor, William “Roddie” Bryan, joined the chase in his own truck and recorded cellphone video.

Arbery’s killing deepened a national outcry over racial injustice after the video of his death leaked online.

Outside the Glynn County courthouse Thursday, hundreds of pastors gathered in response to a defense lawyer’s bid to keep Black ministers out of the courtroom.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson again joined Arbery’s family in the courtroom, even as Bryan’s attorney Kevin Gough renewed his request to keep pastors like Jackson out. The issue was brought up outside the jury’s presence, and Judge Walmsley declined to take it up again, noting he’d already rejected the same motion twice.

“The court’s position is already in the record,” he said.

Prosecutors say there was no justification for McMichael and his father to arm themselves and chase Arbery when he ran past their home. The McMichaels told police they suspected Arbery was a burglar.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Iranian men charged with threatening US voters in '20 election

From news services

WASHINGTON —Two suspected Iranian computer hackers have been charged in a broad campaign of election interference aimed at intimidating American voters during last year's presidential race and undermining confidence that the results of the contest could be trusted.

The activities, prosecutors say, exploited not only computer vulnerabilities but also existing social divisions to sow discord and confusion among voters.

The Iranian cyber campaign included bogus emails that targeted Democratic and Republican voters with different messages, the distribution of a fabricated video that purported to show acts of election fraud and an unsuccessful effort the day after the election to gain access to an American media company's network.

The overall effort attracted publicity in the run-up to the November 2020 election, when law enforcement and intelligence officials held an unusual evening news conference to accuse Iran of orchestrating an email campaign aimed at intimidating Democratic voters in battleground states so they would vote for Trump.

The indictment makes clear that even as much of the public concern about foreign interference in last year's election centered on Russian efforts to disparage Donald Trump's challenger, Joe Biden, Iranian hackers were engaged in a wide-ranging influence campaign of their own. U.S. intelligence officials said in a March assessment that Iran's efforts were aimed at harming Trump's reelection bid, and probably authorized by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, but that there was no evidence that Tehran or any other foreign actor had

done anything to change the vote totals.

The indictment, filed in federal court in Manhattan and unsealed Thursday, accuses Iranian nationals Seyyed Mohammad Hosein Musa Kazemi and Sajjad Kashian of helping carry out the scheme. The Treasury Department also announced sanctions against the men, some of their colleagues and the company they worked for.

The defendants, described in the indictment as experienced hackers who worked as contractors for a cybersecurity firm, are not in custody and are believed to be in Iran.

But officials hope at minimum that the indictment and accompanying sanctions will restrict their ability to travel. Each faces a broad array of charges, including voter intimidation, transmission of interstate threats and computer crimes.

Belarus crisis: Hundreds of Iraqis returned home Thursday from Belarus after abandoning their hopes of reaching the European Union — a repatriation that came after tensions at Poland's eastern border, where thousands of migrants became stuck in a cold and soggy forest.

Many others still in Belarus have moved into a heated warehouse not far from the border, emptying out a makeshift camp, Belarusian state-run media reported.

But the Polish Defense Ministry posted video showing a few hundred people and their tents still near an official crossing point.

It was not clear if the two countries were talking about two different sites on their border, but it was typical of the dueling narratives that have marked the crisis.

Germany virus outbreak: Germany approved new measures Thursday to rein



Muhammad Aziz poses for photos outside the courthouse after his conviction in the killing of Malcolm X was vacated Thursday in New York. Judge Ellen Biben dismissed the convictions of Aziz and the late Khalil Islam, after prosecutors and lawyers said a renewed investigation found new evidence that undermined the 1965 case against the men. BRYAN R. SMITH/GETTY-AFP

in record coronavirus infections as Chancellor Angela Merkel called the pandemic situation in the country "very serious" and said it was "high time" to contain the spread of the virus.

Merkel held a videoconference Thursday with Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Germany's 16 state governors to coordinate the country's response to a surge in coronavirus cases.

Merkel said participants in the meeting had agreed that tightening of measures against the virus would in the future be linked to the number of hospital admissions of COVID-19 patients per 100,000 people over a seven-day period. The states are also considering mandatory vaccinations for some professional groups such as medical staff and nursing home employees.

The new measures include requirements for employees to prove they are vaccinated, recently recovered from COVID-19 or have

tested negative for the virus in order to access communal workplaces; a similar rule will apply to public transport. The measures need to be approved by Germany's upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat, which could happen Friday.

Justice Department grant: The Justice Department said Thursday that it's giving \$139 million to police departments across the U.S. as part of a program that would bring on more than 1,000 new officers.

The grant funding comes through the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and will be awarded to 183 agencies across the country and in U.S. territories.

The funding is meant to help police departments reduce crime and to encourage community policing.

The Justice Department said it received nearly 600 applications from police departments in nearly every state and U.S. territory. The

grant requires that the money be used to hire additional officers, other than those who would normally be hired using a police department's operating budget.

South China Sea: Chinese coast guard ships blocked and sprayed a powerful stream of water at two Philippine boats carrying supplies to troops at a disputed South China Sea shoal, prompting Manila to order Beijing's ships to back off and warn that its supply vessels are covered by a mutual defense treaty with the United States, Manila's top diplomat said Thursday.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said no one was hurt in the incident Tuesday, but the two supply ships had to abort their mission to provide food to Filipino forces occupying Second Thomas Shoal, which lies off western Palawan province in the Philippines' internationally recognized exclusive economic zone.

Locsin said in a tweet that

the three Chinese coast guard ships' actions were illegal and urged them "to take heed and back off."

Ethiopia detainees: The United Nations announced Thursday that six U.N. staff members detained by the Ethiopian government were released and that all of the more than 70 detained truck drivers waiting to deliver aid to war-torn Tigray have also been freed.

But five U.N. staff members and one dependent remain in custody in the capital Addis Ababa and the U.N. is pressing for their release as well, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

The detentions were the government's latest slap at the United Nations after the recent expulsion of seven U.N. staffers, including several senior officials working in Tigray, as tensions continue over what the U.N. has called a "de facto humanitarian blockade" on the Tigray region.

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BUSINESS

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White House offering help for heat, utility bills

Billions in aid to come from \$1.9T coronavirus relief package passed in March

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

The Biden administration is taking steps to help distribute billions of dollars in aid for winter heating and utility bills, a sum that comes largely from its \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package.

The package provided an additional \$4.5 billion for the government's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which typically has funding of \$3 billion to \$4 billion annually. Aid for renters can also cover utility costs, while the money provided to state, local and tribal governments can help families that face high heating bills and are ineligible for other programs.

"It's another example of where the American Rescue Plan included extra precautions to ensure we would be prepared," said Gene Sperling, who is overseeing coronavirus relief for the White House. "These new programs and funding were designed to ensure that if the weather was colder or the prices were higher, we would have

the highest resources ever to help as many hard-pressed families as possible."

The White House held a call Thursday with representatives from governors' offices to discuss ways to distribute the funds and coordinate across programs. Speakers on the call included Sperling, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and the governors of Connecticut, Maine, Michigan and Minnesota.

The aid helps to create a cushion that limits the shock of higher energy costs ahead of winter. Republican lawmakers have said the relief package, which became law in March, caused higher levels of inflation, with prices in October 6.2% higher than a year ago. The GOP argument is that the package sent too much money into the economy, sending prices up and hurting middle-class and lower-income families.

"The Democrats' inflation is functioning like an ultra-punitive tax on the American families who can least afford it," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Wednesday.

But the spending from the aid package is helping insulate millions of households from higher utility bills and reducing strains on household budgets. Estimates by the Urban Institute based off a Census Bureau survey indicate a third of families used the monthly payments from the expanded child tax credit for utility bills between July and October 2021.

Electricity and natural gas prices are roughly 11% higher than a year ago, according to the Labor Department's consumer price index. Heating oil prices have more than doubled over the past year, according to the Energy Information Administration.

The administration is also calling on utilities and energy companies to use the available government resources to protect their most vulnerable customers. DTE Energy, Eversource, National Grid, NorthWestern Energy, Green Mountain Power, Portland General Electric, Vermont Gas, and the delivered fuel trade association NEFI have agreed to identify and notify eligible recipients and guarantee no shutoffs for customers seeking help.

CVS plans to shutter hundreds of drugstores

By Tom Murphy
Associated Press

CVS Health will close hundreds of drugstores over the next three years, as the retail giant adjusts to changing customer needs and converts to new store formats.

The company said Thursday that it will close about 300 stores a year for the next three years, nearly a tenth of its roughly 10,000 retail locations as it reduces store count density in some places.

CVS said it has been evaluating population changes, customer buying patterns and future health needs to "ensure it has the right kinds of stores in the right locations."

No details about where the closing will occur were released by CVS Thursday.

The explosive growth of online shopping has blunted the need for customers to shop at the thousands of locations run by drugstore chains like CVS and Walgreens. That trend worsened at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic with so many customers hunkered down at home.

The company also has some overlapping stores, but GlobalData Managing Director Neil Saunders sees another factor behind the shift announced Thursday.

"Too many stores are stuck in the past with bad lighting, depressing interiors, messy merchandising, and a weak assortment of products," Saunders said in an email.

Aside from operating drugstores, CVS Health also sells health insurance and runs prescription drug plans for big clients like insurers and employers.

CVS Health said its stores will be grouped into three models. Some will be traditional pharmacies that offer retail products as well as some health care services. Others will be dedicated to customer primary care, and the company will break out an enhanced version of its "HealthHUB" locations.



Employees meet during a recent "Work From Work Wednesday" at CommonBond's office in New York City. Nearly 40% of Manhattan office employees are using a hybrid method — working from home part time and going to the office part time. JEENAH MOON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pitfalls of hybrid workplaces

At many companies, a mushy middle ground at the office creating new work problems

By Emma Goldberg
The New York Times

For months, the putt-putt course sat unused. The beanbag chairs lay empty. The kitchen whiteboard, above where the keg used to live, displayed in fading marker "Beers on Tap" from a happy hour in March 2020. But on a recent weekday, over in the common area was a sign of life — fresh bagels.

As employees at financial technology startup CommonBond got COVID-19 vaccines, and grew stir-crazy in their apartments, they started trickling back into the office.

"We call it Work From Work Wednesday," said Keryn Koch, who runs human resources at the company in New York City.

At one point, autumn had been billed across corporate America as the Great Office Reopening. The delta variant intervened, and mandatory return-to-office plans turned optional.

Still, many people chose to report back to their desks: The share of employed people who worked remotely at some point during the month because of COVID-19, which had peaked in May 2020 at 35%, dropped

in October to 11%, the lowest point since the pandemic began, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A closer look at the New York workforce, from a November survey of 188 major employers, showed that 8% of Manhattan office workers are back in the office full time, 54% are fully remote, and everyone else — nearly 40% — is hybrid.

Few are finding it a smooth transition period.

Some companies used their tentative RTO dates as an excuse to avoid questions about how to balance the needs of their remote and in-person employees, according to Edward Sullivan, an executive coach. That has resulted in a mushy middle ground: video calls where remote workers have trouble hearing, a sense that people at home are missing out on perks (teammates), while those in the office are, too (pajamas). And the stakes are not just who is getting talked over in meetings. It is whether flexibility is sustainable, even with all the benefits it confers.

"We're going to see a lot of companies get this wrong," said Chris Herd, an entrepreneur and expert on hybrid work.

Last summer, LinkedIn told its 16,000 employees worldwide that its return-to-office plan announced in October 2020 had been scrapped and that individual departments would decide where their people could work, becoming one of more than 60

major companies that have promised some permanent form of flexibility.

Asana, which makes collaboration software, recently gathered its executives for a discussion planning for the office's official reopening. Half the participants were at the San Francisco headquarters, and the other half joined by videoconference. The remote workers, including the company's CEO, started to lose patience as people in the room talked over one another and made side comments.

"We all had such a terrible experience that we made a decision at the end of that meeting that all executive meetings going forward will be in person," said Anna Binder, the company's head of people. "Or they will be fully remote. We're not doing the in-between."

It is not hard to imagine all of the ways remote workers might be undercut: muted in a heated discussion, shut out of lunchtime bonding.

But Stanford professor Nicholas Bloom, who has surveyed hundreds of hybrid companies, said that at many workplaces the in-person employees felt just as neglected. "It's the American-in-Europe rule," he said. "When an American is traveling abroad, you look around the room, and everyone is speaking English for your benefit. If there's one person working from home, everyone in the office dials into the meeting."

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Deere workers OK 3rd contract

DETROIT — Deere & Co. workers in Iowa, Illinois and Kansas approved a new contract Wednesday that will deliver 10% raises immediately and end a monthlong strike for more than 10,000 employees.

The workers had been on strike since Oct. 14.

The United Auto Workers union said 61% of its members approved the deal with the tractor maker on their third vote, even though this offer was similar to one that 55% of workers rejected two weeks ago.

This latest proposal made only modest changes to the details of Deere's internal incentive pay plan. The new contract covers 12 plants where the Moline, Illinois-based company's iconic John Deere green agricultural and construction equipment is made.

EU funds to aid chip production

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Thursday that it could approve aid to fund production of semiconductors in the 27-nation bloc amid a global chip shortage and intense worldwide competition to fill the need.

The EU's executive arm expects that the scarcity of semiconductors — a key component in everything from smartphones to cars — will last, affecting the region's economy.

Most chipmakers are based in Asia, and the bloc wants to reduce its dependence by boosting production on its soil.

The U.S. has also stepped up efforts to bolster the industry. Lawmakers approved a bill this year aimed at boosting U.S. semiconductor production, part of a wider rivalry with China over trade and technology.

US, Pfizer sign \$5.29B deal on COVID-19 pills

By Tom Murphy
Associated Press

The U.S. government will pay drugmaker Pfizer \$5.29 billion for 10 million treatment courses of its potential COVID-19 treatment if regulators authorize it, the nation's largest purchase agreement yet for a coronavirus therapy.

Pfizer asked the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday to authorize emergency use of the experimental pill, which has been shown to significantly cut the rate of hospitalizations and deaths among people with coronavirus infections.

The FDA is already reviewing a competing pill from Merck and will hold a public meeting on it later this month.

The price for Pfizer's potential treatment amounts to about \$529 per course. The U.S. has already agreed to pay roughly \$700 per course of Merck's drug for about 3.1 million treatments.

Pfizer said Thursday the price being paid by the U.S. government reflects the high number of treatment courses purchased through 2022.

President Joe Biden said in a statement that his administration is taking steps to ensure that the treatments "will be easily accessible and free."

"This treatment could prove to be another critical tool in our arsenal that will accelerate our path out of the pandemic," Biden said, adding that vaccines protecting against the virus remain the strongest tool.

Pfizer has started rolling submissions for approval in several other countries and there are advanced purchase agreements with other governments as well.

On Tuesday, Pfizer signed a deal with U.N.-backed group to allow generic drugmakers to produce low-cost versions of the pill for certain countries. Merck has a similar deal for its pill, which was authorized in Britain earlier this month.

Pfizer reported earlier this month that its pill cut hospitalizations and deaths by 89% among high-risk adults who had early symptoms of COVID-19.

The company studied its pill in people who were unvaccinated and faced the worst risks from the virus due to age or health problems, such as obesity.

Jobless claims

Initial unemployment claims, seasonally adjusted, in millions per week



BUSINESS

Led by schools, health care, Connecticut adds 5K jobs

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

The COVID-19 infection rate has been edging up, but the state Department of Labor reported Thursday that Connecticut employers in October added 5,300 jobs across numerous industries.

Schools, health care, financial activities and leisure and hospitality each gained more than 1,000 jobs. Economists also revised upward job gains in September by 1,800, to a gain of 6,500 jobs.

The unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 6.4%. The U.S. rate in October was 4.6%.

Employers in the private sector added 5,900 jobs, with 40,300 more jobs than in October 2020.

The number of government positions fell by 600 in comparison with last year when the federal government hired temporary Census workers.

“Job growth has been broad-based across industries and accelerated each calendar quarter in the first three quarters of 2021. October’s gains add to that growth,” said Patrick Flaherty, the Labor Department’s research director.

A fall in the unemployment rate by 0.4 percentage points each month in four of the past

five months is a “rapid decline by historic standards,” he said.

Interim Labor Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo said the improving labor force is due partly to Connecticut residents who “have taken the virus seriously and responded admirably by wearing masks, getting vaccinated and socially distancing.”

“This has helped keep the virus in check and our economy is stronger for it,” she said.

Gov. Ned Lamont on Wednesday urged residents to get a booster shot to protect against COVID-19. The weekly average for positive cases has been rising in Connecticut since late September.

What industries posted job gains?

Educational and health services: 1,400
Financial activities: 1,300
Professional and business services, which includes scientific, management and administrative jobs: 1,300
Leisure and hospitality, which includes arts, entertainment and recreation, hotels and restaurants: 1,100
Trade, transportation and utilities: 900

In what industries did jobs decline?

Government: 600
Construction and mining: 300
Manufacturing: 300

Where were the new jobs created?

The number of jobs increased in four of the six labor market areas.

Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk: 4,000
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford labor market: 3,500
New Haven employers: 600
Danbury: 100

Where did jobs decline?

The number of jobs fell by 200 each in the Norwich-New London-Westerly, R.I. labor market and Waterbury.

Google: Pentagon contracts, AI principles not in conflict

By Kate Conger
and Daisuke Wakabayashi
The New York Times

Google executives told employees last week in a companywide meeting that it is interested in a Pentagon contract for cloud computing and that working for the military would not necessarily conflict with principles created by the company for how its artificial intelligence technology would be used.

Google is pursuing the contract three years after an employee revolt forced the company to abandon work on a Pentagon program that used artificial intelligence and to establish new guidelines against using AI for weapons or surveillance.

The pursuit potentially sets up another clash between company leaders and employees. Google’s cloud unit prioritized preparation for a bid on a Pentagon contract, The New York Times revealed this month, pulling engineers off other projects to focus on creating a winning proposal.

The rush to pursue the contract is a dramatic shift for Google, which said in 2018 that it would not bid on a major cloud computing contract with the Defense Department,



Google CEO Sundar Pichai says the company is “committed to working with the government in a way that’s consistent with our AI principles.” JIM WILSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2019

known as the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure, or JEDI, because the work would conflict with its AI principles.

The JEDI cloud computing contract, estimated to be worth \$10 billion over 10 years, was awarded to Microsoft in 2019.

But facing legal challenges from Amazon, the Pentagon scrapped the contract in July and announced a new plan to purchase cloud

computing technology.

The new version of the contract, known as the Joint Warfighting Cloud Capability, will split the work among multiple companies.

The segmented nature of the contract allows Google to work on parts of the Pentagon cloud without violating its ban on weapons, Google executives told employees in the videoconference meeting Nov. 11, a recording of which was

obtained by the Times.

The scope of the work is still unclear because the government has not submitted a formal request for proposal.

Although it has not been invited to bid, Google has said it is interested in the military work.

In a blog post published the same day as the Nov. 11 meeting, Thomas Kurian, who oversees the company’s cloud unit, wrote: “If we are

invited to be part of the JWCC contract, we will absolutely bid.”

At the meeting, Kurian said there are many areas in which Google’s capabilities and expertise can be applied “with no conflict to Google’s AI principles.”

“We have governance processes that provide guidance and oversight into what AI products we will offer and what custom AI projects we will and we will not pursue, and we will follow those governance processes,” he said.

Kurian’s remarks, which were reported earlier by CNBC, were made in response to a question from an employee about Google’s interest in the Pentagon contract and the Times’ reporting on it.

“We understand that not every Googler will agree with this decision, but we believe Google Cloud should seek to serve the government where it is capable of doing so and where the work meets Google’s AI principles and our company’s values,” Kurian said.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai echoed Kurian’s remarks.

“I think we are strongly committed to working with the government in a way that’s consistent with our AI principles,” Pichai said.

A Google spokesperson declined to comment.

MARKET RUNDOWN			
Friday, November 19, 2021			
📉 DOW	📉 10-YR T-BOND	📉 GOLD	
35,870.95 -60.10	1.59% -.01	\$1,861.00 -8.70	
36,800 36,120 35,640 37,000 36,000 35,000 34,000 33,000 M J J A S O N Dow Jones industrials Close: 35,870.95 Change: -60.10 (-0.2%) 10 DAYS			
Commodities			
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	CLOSE 79.01	PREV. 78.36	YTD +62.84%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.90	4.82	+93.07%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.29	2.28	+61.14%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,861.00	1,869.70	-1.70%
Silver (oz)	24.90	25.17	-5.43%
(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)			
Foreign Exchange		Money Rates	
ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Britain	1.3496	.7410	3.25
Canada	.7935	1.2602	0.05
China	.1566	6.3861	0.06
Euro	1.1371	.8795	1.22
Japan	.008751	114.27	1.59
Mexico	.048169	20.7602	1.98
Global Markets			
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. %YTD
Frankfurt	16,221.73	-29.40	-.18%
London	7,255.96	-35.24	-.48%
Hong Kong	25,319.72	-330.36	-1.29%
Nikkei	29,598.66	-89.67	-.30%
Domestic Indexes			
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	35,870.95	-60.10	+17.20%
DOW Trans.	16,496.69	-53.32	+31.90%
DOW Util.	908.08	-3.94	+5.06%
NYSE Comp.	17,117.74	-74.92	+17.85%
Nasdaq Comp.	15,993.71	+72.14	+24.09%
S&P 500	4,704.54	+15.87	+25.25%
S&P 400	2,883.39	-5.24	+25.00%
Wilshire 5000	48,717.45	+39.79	+23.47%
Russell 2000	2,363.59	-13.42	+19.68%
Stocks of Local Interest			
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	40.41	-1.72	+1806.1
AT&T Inc (T)	24.39	-.27	-15.2
Activision Blizzard (ATVI)	62.67	-1.53	-32.5
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	155.02	+3.68	+69.0
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	19.39	-.47	+23.0
Amphenol Corp (APH)	84.76	-.14	...
Apple Inc (AAPL)	157.87	+4.38	+19.0
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	51.05	-.28	+12.3
Bank of America (BAC)	46.32	-.19	+52.8
Barnes Group (B)	45.43	+.22	-10.4
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2375.98	+9.60	+6.7
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	59.04	-.40	-.4
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	95.34	+2.61	+39.6
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.95	-.38	-.3
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	57.02	+.90	+51.2
Charter Communic (CHTR)	685.88	-5.16	+3.7
Cigna Corp (CI)	218.75	+1.77	+5.1
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	53.63	-3.13	+19.8
Clover Hlth Inv (CLOV)	5.61	-.82	-64.7
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	52.78	-.95	+.7
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	4.39	-.38	-75.9
Dicerna Pharma (DRNA)	38.03	+16.75	+72.6
Disney (DIS)	155.58	-1.75	-14.1
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	128.66	+.10	+40.7
Ethan Allen (ETD)	24.72	+.32	+22.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	83.21	-.56	-.3
Exela Technologies (XELA)	1.41	-.10	+13.3
Ford Motor (F)	19.56	-.30	+122.5
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	9.46	-.78	-15.3
Gen Dynamics (GD)	198.00	-1.46	+33.0
Gen Electric (GE)	100.67	-1.32	+16.8
General Motors Co (GM)	62.33	-2.28	+49.7
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	70.50	-.61	+43.9
Honeywell Intd (HON)	220.70	+.21	+3.8
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.95	-.42	+28.0
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	23.65	-.09	+39.5
Intel Corp (INTC)	49.68	-.55	-.3
Kaman (KAMN)	38.91	-.24	-31.9
Keycorp (KEY)	23.67	-.04	+44.2
Kraft Heinz Co (KHC)	35.37	-1.19	+2.0
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	71.41	-.67	+41.9
Longeveron Inc (LGVN)	6.87	+3.95	-.4
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	47.05	-5.50	+75.4
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	44.33	-1.18	+40.7
Macy's Inc (M)	37.37	+6.53	+232.2
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.71	+.02	+14.3
Meten Holding Group (METX)	.46	+.03	-77.1
MetLife Inc (MET)	62.66	-.47	+33.5
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	341.27	+.25	+53.4
Novartis AG (NVS)	81.97	+.07	-13.2
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	316.75	+24.14	+142.6
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	86.23	+.90	+27.7
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	21.50	-.99	-.8
Paysafe Ltd (PSFE)	4.00	-.31	-70.4
Peloton Interactive (PTON)	48.40	-2.73	-68.1
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCF)	18.44	-.19	+42.6
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	51.41	+.54	+39.7
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	7.50	-.27	+21.8
Progenity Inc (PROG)	4.30	-.58	-19.0
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	109.25	-1.03	+39.9
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	62.40	-.06	+.7
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	86.91	-.03	+21.5
Rivian Automotive A (RIVN)	123.38	-22.69	+22.5
Rogers Corp (ROG)	269.94	-.12	+73.8
Roblox Corp (RBLX)	126.12	+1.42	+81.5
SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	79.09	-.15	+8.7
Sirius XM Hldgs Inc (SIRI)	6.32	-.31	-.8
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	20.57	-.55	-9.2
Sono Group NV (SEV)	29.29	-8.91	-23.3
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	192.31	-1.48	+7.7
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	25.73	-.11	+33.3
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.75	-.05	+57.2
Terex Corp (TEX)	46.98	-.32	+34.7
Tilray Inc (TLRY)	10.90	-1.44	+32.0
Travelers Cos (TRV)	156.03	-.39	+11.2
Twitter Inc (TWTR)	48.60	-2.01	-10.2
Uber Technologies (UBER)	45.00	+.89	-11.8
United Rentals (URI)	377.87	-1.86	+62.9
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	449.47	+.52	+28.2
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	321.31	-1.23	+48.1
Voya Financial (VOYA)	66.58	-2.78	+38.0
Webster Financial (WBS)	58.16	-.30	+13.2
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1053.58	-13.56	+5.3
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	53.33	-.55	+11.0
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	76.61	-.97	+10.5
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	19.20	-.41	-17.2
Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	6.64	-.32	-32.7

Hartford Courant

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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Different algorithm won't fix Facebook

Many, including those in Congress, want to give users the content chronologically

By Cathy O'Neil
Bloomberg Opinion

There's been a lot of discussion, since the Facebook Files were leaked, about how to repair the social media platform. A lot of this talk centers on how algorithms manipulate the feeds, and how we users are profiled and fed exactly the content that arouses us to fits of hatred, conspiracy theorizing and even domestic terrorism.

This is true and deeply problematic. But the fix offered by many, including some people in Congress, which is to offer users their content in chronological order, won't work. Here's why.

First, consider Twitter. Chronological feeds are not exactly the norm there, either, because there's an algorithm at work (which has recently been seen to amplify right-wing U.S. news sources). But at least on Twitter, a chronological feed of people we follow wouldn't be utterly jarring.

Indeed, for 1% of Twitter users, who as a test group have always been left out of the algorithms, the feed has always been simply chronological.

Chronological feeds are tolerable on Twitter simply because, on this platform, we choose the people we want to follow. Algorithmic Twitter differs from chronological Twitter in showing us more popular, and possibly older tweets of the people we follow along with a smattering of tweets from people we don't follow at all but the algorithm thinks we'll like.

It's as if we join a cocktail party in the middle and are either told about the recent highlights we missed (algorithmic) or listen in on every single conversation we missed (chronological).

The second approach is a decidedly more boring way to join a party, but at least it's a party we wanted to be invited to.

Now consider Facebook. It's grown up over the past decade and a half on the concept of reciprocal friendships, which has meant we don't necessarily want to listen in on the conversations of most of the people in our own networks. The algorithm has developed alongside this network and has learned which conversations we actually want to be a part of — or, more appropriately, with whom we'd prefer to argue.

It conveniently prunes away the second cousin's friend from high school we once met at a party and somehow befriended.

The reality is, we don't want to hear from most of the "friends" in our networks, and if offered the choice between incredibly boring cat/baby pictures from people we don't want to know and provocative or even outrageous content from suspicious sources, we will opt for the latter.

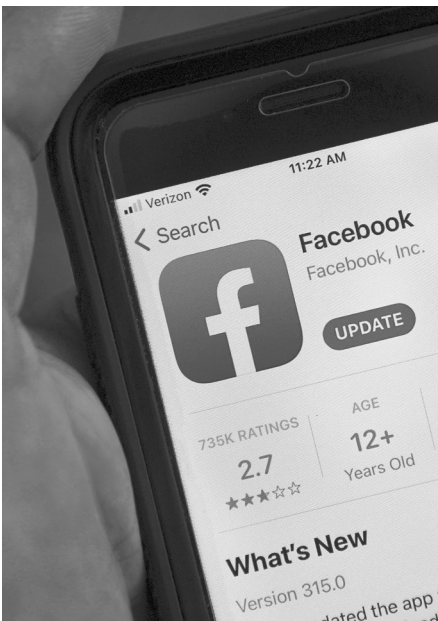
It would be different, to be clear, if Facebook had always offered only chronological feeds. Then we would have curated our friends more closely all this time.

But it didn't, we didn't, and the result is that this particular path-dependent outcome is feasible only with an active algorithm.

By the way, I'm not offering an alternative to "chronological feed" to fix Facebook.

That's not because I'm withholding; I just don't think there is one. The only reasonable approach is to admit what Mark Zuckerberg doesn't want to: Facebook is a destructive force that causes real harm and has no easy fix.

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Fixing Facebook's feed to offer users their content in chronological order won't work. **WILFREDO LEE/AP**



Chevron Gas prices over the \$5 mark are displayed Tuesday in Visalia, California. **RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP**

‘Experts’ claim spending bill will help tame inflation

By Preston Brashers
The Heritage Foundation

"Many of the great disasters of our time have been committed by experts," the economist Thomas Sowell once said. Looking at the way prices are rapidly rising across the U.S. economy, it's hard not to think of his words.

President Joe Biden assured Americans in July that "no serious economist" expected unchecked inflation. Today, the public is more concerned with inflation than any other issue.

In February, the government's inflation forecasts for the year were at or below 2%. As of October, year-over-year consumer price increases have reached a 31-year high of 6.2% — triple the official prediction. Producer prices are up 8.6%.

A series of deficit-financed spending packages adding up to \$6 trillion (so far) have contributed to rising prices. Only recently, with prices across the economy climbing, has Biden acknowledged that the trend of higher inflation is hitting people's pocketbooks.

And yet his administration is doubling down on spending. The House is considering a massive social spending package that would spend another \$2.4 trillion (double that if the new programs aren't assumed to expire).

Incredibly, the administration is selling the budget-busting plan as a solution to inflation. White House economic adviser Brian Deese claimed, "If your principal concern is inflation, the Build Back Better agenda is exactly designed to relieve those price pressures over time."

Biden has pointed to a letter from 17 left-wing Nobel laureate economists that

supposedly agree with his dubious claim that the bill would "ease inflationary pressures."

But this letter was written about a very different version of the bill, and it wasn't referring to near-term inflationary pressures. Several of the signatories are now more pessimistic (or at least noncommittal) about whether the current plan would help or hurt long-term inflation.

Proponents claim that this bill (unlike most spending bills) would curb inflation, because it is "paid for."

However, it is "paid for" only in the same sense that a car is paid for if you have a lease payment plan. It would take three years just to pay for the first year of spending in the bill.

This is the game in Congress: Put entitlements in place now and force a future Congress to figure out how to pay for it.

Biden and congressional Democrats don't intend to stop funding the new entitlements. Not after one year, one decade, or one century. If the spending was truly meant to be temporary, why is the White House promoting it by creating cartoons depicting cradle-to-grave government handouts spanning multiple generations?

They can't have their cake and eat it too. If the Build Back Better plan is permanent and transformative, they need to exhibit the intellectual honesty to admit they are saddling the economy with never-ending deficits and, likely, even higher prices.

Even if the plan was fully paid for, much of this plan only exacerbates rising prices.

As the economy struggles with a labor shortage, the plan would push hundreds of thousands of workers out of the private sector and into government bureaucracy

at the IRS and various regulatory agencies.

Government agencies would exert more control over the private sector through federal grant money. Instead of competing for price-sensitive customers, many private companies would focus on competing for billions of grant dollars from cash-flush federal agencies. None of this would help put products on empty shelves.

One thing necessary to put products on shelves is affordable, reliable energy. Biden recently pointed to the economic pain caused by surging gas prices: "Did you ever think you'd be paying this much for a gallon of gas? In some parts of California, they're paying \$4.50 a gallon."

Yet Biden's plan would in many ways replicate California's failed approach to energy policy: subsidize commercially unviable technologies and penalize production of oil and natural gas. It gives the EPA more regulatory authority to crack down on oil and gas companies. It even bans new production of oil and gas off of nearly all of America's coastline.

When asked on Bloomberg Television what her plan was for increasing oil production, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm burst into laughter exclaiming, "That is hilarious!" For Americans struggling to fill up their gas tanks, it isn't.

However, the fundamental problem of the spending plan is this. No individual or group of experts has godlike powers that allow them to micromanage the economy better than 300 million people acting on their own behalf — working, buying, selling and living how they see fit.

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Inflation skeptics: Shoppers are talking

By Michael R. Strain
Bloomberg Opinion

The robust pace of U.S. consumer spending looks at first glance like evidence that inflation isn't hurting a resilient U.S. economy. And that's how Tuesday's government report on strong October retail sales growth has widely been interpreted.

Look harder, though, and a more ominous omen appears: one of inflationary psychology becoming entrenched and the risk of an inflationary spiral so intense it would require a damaging recession to correct. Data from the Commerce Department show that retail sales increased by 1.7% in October, beating forecasts. The gains topped those in September and August, even as consumer prices rose the fastest in 31 years. October's spending gains were the largest since March.

So far, so good. Consumers have money and they're spending it. That looks like prosperity, not a portent of doom. Quarterly reports from Walmart Inc. and Home Depot Inc. show earnings beating Wall Street's expectations. Walmart is even planning for inflation's retreat.

Not so fast. Part of the reason sales boomed appears to be that households did more Christmas shopping than usual in October.

More on that in a moment. First, look under the hood of the Commerce Department's spending report. Not everything went up. Outlays at health and personal-care stores actually dropped, by 0.6%. Consumers spent 0.7% less on clothing and accessories in October than in September. Restaurant spending was flat

over the month.

That's the kind of behavior that inflation can usually be expected to generate. If restaurant meals and clothing cost more, people are likely to buy less of them, and in October, that's what happened.

And that in turn is consistent with data released last week showing that consumers are gloomy. According to the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index, fear of inflation is growing. Consumers expect prices to rise by nearly 5% over the next year. According to the survey, 1 in 4 consumers said their living standards were reduced in November due to inflation.

But rising prices and souring sentiment did not dampen all the components of consumer spending last month. Spending at department stores was up 2.2% relative to the prior month. Sales at online and mail-order retailers grew by 4%, and at other retailers by 2.8%. Electronics and appliance stores saw sales surge by 3.8% in October after falling for the prior three months.

What do department stores, online retailers and electronic stores have in common? They are typical venues for Christmas shopping. But Christmas shopping in October is unusually early.

It may be that consumers are less worried about price increases than supply chain disruptions that could make it difficult for them to purchase holiday gifts. Maybe restaurants just can't boom as long as the pandemic makes people fearful of indoor crowds.

But inflation is surely a concern. As long as consumers worry that gifts will become more expensive as December approaches,

the tentacles of inflation are stretching into the consumer psyche.

Inflation isn't necessarily a menace. Rising prices provide grease for the economy as long as they grow slowly enough so that consumers and businesses don't have to pay much attention. But if the anticipated difference between October's prices and December's prices is enough to motivate people to head to the department store for Christmas gifts, then inflation is troublingly conspicuous.

The more entrenched concerns about inflation become, the more dangerous they are to the economy. Anticipating higher prices, workers might demand higher wages. The rising cost of materials and equipment leads firms to raise their prices. Because firms buy from each other, higher prices charged by some firms mean even higher prices for others. This leads to higher consumer prices, and greater demand from workers for even higher wages.

An inflationary spiral would have taken hold in which businesses increase the prices they charge because they expect that the prices they face will continue to go up. A self-fulfilling cycle is created that would probably require a recession to correct and reset, throwing millions out of work, reducing incomes and harming typical workers and households in myriad ways.

Of course, October's spending data don't prove that inflation is spiraling out of control. But they are one more reason to be concerned.

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

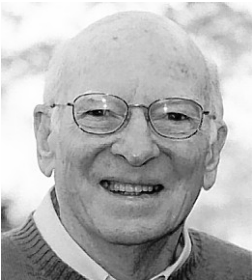
BARKHAMSTED
Shirley L. Lancot
BERLIN
Raymond J. Kopycinski
BLOOMFIELD
Ann Rome
BRISTOL
Alice K. Cunningham*
Joella B. Mudry*
Frances M. Pelletier
EAST HAMPTON
Thomas N. Markham
EAST HARTFORD
Stefani F. Carroll
Pedro Gonzalez
Gary R. Trinks
ELLINGTON
Daniel Laffin Iii
ENFIELD
John E. Manning*
FARMINGTON
John E. Manning*
HARTFORD
Lillie B. Campbell
MANCHESTER
Gary R. Trinks
NEW BRITAIN
Edward Jankoski
Raymond J. Kopycinski
NEW LONDON
Charles Adams
NEWINGTON
Frances M. Pelletier

NORTH STONINGTON
Gary R. Trinks
ROCKY HILL
Lawrence Smedberg
SOUTH WINDSOR
Anne M. Beaulieu
SOUTHINGTON
Claudio D. Ingriselli*
Joan E. Salamon*
Lawrence Smedberg
TERRYVILLE
Robert T. Ladd
TOLLAND
Frances M. Pelletier
UNIONVILLE
Raymond J. Kopycinski
WALLINGFORD
Joan Filkins
Gary R. Trinks
WASHINGTON
Robert G. Doyle
WEATOGUE
Daniel Laffin Iii
WETHERSFIELD
Lawrence Smedberg
WINDSOR
Frances M. Pelletier
Gary R. Trinks
OUT OF STATE
Lillie B. Campbell
Atlanta, GA
Lawrence Smedberg
Alexa

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Adams, Charles



C.H. Park Adams, 90, died on November 16, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. Born on March 26, 1931 in Boston, Massachusetts, Park was the son of Madeleine Park Adams and Ernest Adelbert Adams, Jr. Park graduated from Episcopal Academy in 1949. After spending a year at the New York State Maritime College, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1954. He was a member of Zeta Psi fraternity. Park served in the United States Air Force as an aircraft maintenance officer in the Azores from 1954 to 1957. In 1958 Park married Phoebe DeFoe and lived in West Hartford, CT where he worked for Hamilton Standard Propeller Co. before joining The Travelers Insurance Company. After working with The Travelers in both their Portland ME and Newark NJ offices, he moved to company headquarters in Hartford, CT remaining with The Travelers for 30 years until his retirement. Following his retirement, Park ran a telecommunications business for several years and then worked as an independent travel agent for 15 years. Having spent many summers in his youth in Ocean Park, ME, Park's love of boating stayed with him throughout his life, both sailing and motor boating on the Maine coast. He had a great interest in the aviation industry and enjoyed working on mechanical things. Following his retirement, he and Phoebe lived for ten years in the Portland ME area before moving to New London in 2007. Park was predeceased by his parents, his sister Elizabeth Henderson, and his son-in-law Alan West. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Phoebe, daughter Priscilla West, son Park Adams, Jr. and partner Anne Chamberlain, all of New London, and grandchildren Abigail West, Brendan West and Katherine Adams. He is also survived by his brother Bruce Adams and his wife Sally of Vallejo, CA. Calling hours will be held at the Chadwick Funeral Home, 235 Main Street, New London NH on Tuesday, November 23, 4:00-6:00pm. Burial will be held in the spring of 2022. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice.

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Beaulieu, Anne M (Ferrigno)



Anne M. Beaulieu, 87, of Port St. Lucie FL passed away peacefully on October 24, 2021 in her home with her husband by her side. Anne was born October 11, 1934 in East Rutherford NJ, to father Enrico Ferrigno and mother Mary (Ambrosino), and siblings Rose (Dolly) Baker, Gennaro (Jerry), and Harry (Junior) who preceded her in death, and Joseph (Joey) who resides in Stanhope NJ. She married Robert Beaulieu on August 6, 1960 and moved to Torrington CT before settling in their new home in South Windsor CT in 1964 to raise her family. Anne was a wonderful cook and baker where she won the blue ribbon for her peach pie at the Goshen Fair, and had a love for Agatha Christie and other British mysteries. She enjoyed attending her children's sporting events that included many cold hours at hockey rinks across the state. The family spent summer vacations at Sun Valley Beach Club in Stafford Springs and the shores of Cape Cod MA. Anne enjoyed nurturing children and young adults, a second mother to many, with her volunteer work in her community participating in the Orchard Hill School PTA, president of the South Windsor High School Booster Club, CCD education, and South Windsor Youth Hockey Association as a board member, secretary, and chair of many committees. She also worked outside the home as a secretary at the University of Hartford, the business department at South Windsor High School, and Fleet Bank, and founded the Prestige Temporary Agency that provided secretarial services. Amongst the raising of her family and busy work schedule Anne was a two time cancer survivor. Anne is survived by her husband Robert of Port St. Lucie FL and three children, Gregory of Marana AZ, Douglas and his wife Linda of Port St Lucie FL, and Matthew and his wife Cindy of Westbrook CT. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Caroline (Beaulieu) Campbell, Kevin Beaulieu, Jason Beaulieu, Jacob Beaulieu, and Timothy Beaulieu. She will be urned in the Wapping Cemetery in South Windsor CT. Anne will be dearly remembered by all who knew her.

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Kopycinski, Raymond J.

Raymond Joseph Kopycinski, 81, of New Britain, husband of the late Kathleen (Herman) Kopycinski, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021. Calling hours will be held on Sunday from 2-4 PM at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home, 411 So. Main St., New Britain. Please visit www.ericksonhansen.com for the full obituary or to share a memory of Raymond with the family.

ERICKSON-HANSEN

New Britain

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OBITUARIES

Campbell, Lillie Bell (Barnum)



Lillie Bell Campbell, 79 of Hartford, CT, passed away peacefully at St. Francis Hospital surrounded by her family. Lillie was born on March 4, 1942, in Dawson, GA to the late Lonnie & Flora Bell (Dotson) Barnum. Lillie's beautiful spirit will be cherished by her children; Rodell (Merica) Campbell, East Hartford, CT., Crystal (Chris) Williams, East Hartford, CT., Renee (Myles) Hester, Raeford, NC., Lisa (James) Berry, Waxhaw, NC., a very special granddaughter Robin (David) Ruff-Boyd, Glastonbury, CT., her brothers, L.W. (Mary) Barnum, Douglasville, GA., Johnny (Mamie) Barnum, Hartford, CT., Jum (Mae) RaOof, Fayetteville, GA., and Len (Marcilla) Barnum, Blakley, GA., sisters Mattie (Robert) Cannon, Villa Rica, GA., and Joyce Green, Atlanta, GA. Lillie was a fabulous cook, a heck of a seamstress, A loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, and a confidant when you needed one. Lillie also leaves to cherish her memory, 20 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren, her best friend Lillian (aka)Lil (Al) Muller-Smith, of Staten Island, New York, a dear and close family friend Andrea Allen and son Andre and a host of nieces, nephews, family members, and friends. Lillie is predeceased by sons, Kenneth and Terrell Campbell, granddaughter Katrina Lockhart, brothers, Master (Willie) Walton, Lonnie Jr., Jack (Jasper) and Dwight Barnum, sisters, Annie Lou (Li-Bit) Johnson and Carrie Roberts.

Calling hours are 10-11am, Service 11-noon at The Lodge, 130 Deerfield Road, Windsor, CT 06095. Professional Services Entrusted to: Carmon Funeral Homes, 807 Bloomfield Ave, Windsor, CT 06095. To leave a message of comfort for the Campbell family, or attend the service virtually, please visit www.carmon-funeral.com.

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Carroll, Stefani Fawn



Stefani Fawn Carroll, 64, of East Hartford, CT departed this life to be with the Lord on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. Stefani was born in Richmond, VA on October 15, 1956 to the late Edgar A. Carroll and Eunice (Dugan) Carroll. Left to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy is her devoted sister, Jocelyn Turner (William) of East Hartford, CT; as well as a host of relatives and friends. A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 11:00AM at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Service (a division of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services) 94 Granby Street, Bloomfield, CT 06002; Full military honors will immediately follow. To leave a message of comfort for the Carroll family and view the full obituary, please visit www.hkhfuneralservices.com



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Doyle, Robert G.



Robert G. Doyle, beloved husband of 52 years of Rita (Tramont) Doyle, passed away on November 14 at the Hebrew Home and Rehab Center. Bob was born on November 28, 1940 in Hartford to the late Edward J. and Mae (Kane) Doyle. He served in the United States Navy aboard the U.S.S. Boston for two years. He graduated in 1963 first in his class from Leicester Junior College. He obtained a degree in business education from UCONN in 1966. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service in many administrative positions for 30 years. Upon retirement he travelled with Rita to Ireland, England and Italy. Brsides his wife, he Leaves his sister-in-law Nancy Doyle, nephews Ned Doyle, Peter Doyle and his wife Margaret, John Doyle and his wife Anne, Jim Doyle and his wife Leah, Paul Doyle and his wife Diana. Bob also leaves his brothers-in-law Dr. Edmond Tramont, Raymond Tramont and his wife Maryann and Thomas Tramont and Lisa Stoddad. He was predeceased by his brother Edward R. Doyle. There are no calling hours and services are private at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Incarnation Church, 544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To extend condolences, please visit Farleysullivan.com.

Farley-Sullivan

Funeral Home

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Gonzalez, Pedro



Pedro Gonzalez, 96, of East Hartford, entered eternal rest on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. His loving wife, Longina (Cruz) Gonzalez, and his family were by his side. Born in Naguabo, Puerto Rico on August 14, 1925, he was the son of the late Celestino and Eufemia (Sierra) Gonzalez. Pedro was never handed anything in life; he was a hard-working mason and a tireless provider for his family. He even continued his trade into his 70's before he finally retired. Pedro was a proud and devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished his time with all of his family members. Pedro is survived by his two sons, Eliezer Gonzalez and Alejandro Mendez, both of Florida; five daughters, Carmen Gonzalez of Florida, Loida Olivera of East Hartford, Dorca Gonzalez of East Hartford, Emilda Medina of Florida, and Miriam Ceden of Springfield, Massachusetts. He also leaves his brother, Mariano Gonzalez, and his sister Arcadia Gonzalez, with 22 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and ten great-great-grandchildren. To leave a message for the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com

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Filkins, Joan (Prunier)



Joan (Prunier) Filkins, who proudly reached the age of 93, died peacefully in the presence of her family at the Masonic Health Center of Wallingford CT, on October 24, 2021. She is survived by her son Charles Filkins Jr., his wife Kathy and two grandsons, Connor and Garret; her brother Donald Conway, his wife Kathy, and their daughter Megan; and a host of nieces, nephews, first, second and third cousins. She was preceded in death by her mother Ella (Eukers) Cosway and father Louis Prunier; her sisters Jackie Capitani and Beverly Calkins; her brother Richard Prunier; her beloved cousin Billy Corbett; and her many aunts and uncles.

Born on August 24, 1928, she lived much of her younger life in Hartford, CT. She attended Our Lady of Sorrows Church, where she married Charles "Herbie" Filkins in 1956. She enjoyed the many benefits of the large Eukers family: annual family gatherings; trips to the Rhode Island beaches; and watching that family grow ever larger through the years. She especially enjoyed dinners on her brother's deck.

People speak of "The Dash", the life you led between your birth and death dates that is represented by a simple dash. Joan's "dash" was one of giving. She always put others first, looking after everyone else in her life. She sacrificed much and worked tirelessly raising her son. People often said, "Give her a nickel and she'll save six cents." In her many years at Grand Union she treated "her customers" like family, no matter which store she worked in. Later in life, Joan took care of her cousin Barbara Gouin-Trudeau in her fight with cancer. No matter where she was or who she was with, Joan looked for a way to help.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM on Monday, November 29th, at the St Mary Roman Catholic Church, 626 Willard Ave. Newington, CT. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity in Joan's name. Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories, or photo tributes at www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com.

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Jankoski, Edward



Edward A. Jankoski, 93, beloved husband of Florence (Sypek) Jankoski for 65 years, passed away peacefully November 17, 2021 after a short illness with family at his bedside. Born June 5, 1928 in New Britain, CT he was the son of Adam and Filumena (Winalski) Jankoski. He lived in Bristol his entire life and attended local schools, graduating from Bristol High School in

1946. Edward married Florence (Sypek) Jankoski on July 14, 1956 and had three sons. Despite valiantly fighting several health issues over the last thirty years he always had time to enthusiastically help his three sons with whatever building projects they were working on regardless of how large or small. His favorite pastime was pulling the slot machine levers with his wife at whichever casino was offering the best perks. He worked at the Stanley Works for 43 years first as a draftsman, and then as a planning and project engineer, receiving numerous awards for building energy conservation in the 1970's. He retired from Stanley Works in 1989. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and served in the 45th Infantry Division from 1950 - 1952. Edward is survived by his wife Florence, three sons and their wives, James and Valerie from Bristol, David from Bristol, Ronald and Jennifer from Burlington, seven grandchildren: Tyler and Justin; Jonathan and Robert; Edward, Abigail, and Emily. He was predeceased by a younger brother Stanley, his father Adam, and his mother Filumena. Family and friends are invited to go directly to St. Matthew Church, 120 Church Ave, Bristol, on Saturday, November 20th at 10:30 AM to attend a Mass of Christian burial and are also invited to attend the committal service with full military honors immediately following at the Holy Family Mausoleum in St. Joseph Cemetery, Bristol. Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol has the honor of serving Edward's family. In lieu of flowers, please consider an act of kindness or charitable donation in his memory. Please visit Edward's memorial website at www.FunkFuneralHome.com



Funk's Since 1865
www.FunkFuneralHome.com

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Laffin III, Daniel



Daniel Laffin III, of Ellington, 41, husband to Nicole (Krasner) Laffin, passed away unexpectedly on November 12, 2021. He was born in Hartford on May 30, 1980, son of Daniel and Maryann (Coco) Laffin, Jr. Dan was a member of IUOE Local 478 for 17 years, working as a crane operator. He took pride in all his jobs, most notably the dry docks at Electric Boat, The New London State Pier and the Charter Oak Bridge. He was a avid NY Yankee fan. Dan especially loved his three girls, and was involved with their soccer and softball games and gymnastics meets. Besides the love of his life, Nicole, Dan will be greatly missed by Alexia, Sophia and McKayla, his sisters, Jessica Glantz, her husband Tanner and their children Jaxson, Brooklyn and Axel and Jennifer Mowel, her husband Michael and their children, Lindsay, Michael, Emily and Charlotte. He also leaves his in-laws, Karen and Carl LaPier, Robert and Christina Krasner, his aunts, uncle and numerous cousins and friends. A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Dan's life will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 10:00 AM in St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street Hartford. Parking is available in the lot across the street. There will be no calling hours and burial will be at the convenience of the family. The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, Wethersfield, has care of the arrangements. To extend condolences, please visit FarleySullivan.com.

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Funeral Home

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OBITUARIES

Ladd, Robert Theodore



Robert Theodore “Tike” Ladd, of Harwinton, owner of The Classic Motorcycle Co., Terryville, CT, husband of Patricia Mozeliak Ladd, and father of son, Dylan Ladd and daughter Stephanie Ladd, died Saturday evening at Hartford Hospital. Robert, also known as Bob, Ted, Teddy, or Tike, was born November 29, 1956 in Meriden, CT, and grew up in Cheshire and Southington. His parents Walter Krum Ladd and Dorothy Jeane Winter Ladd, and his brother Walter Scott Ladd predeceased him. Tike leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters in- law, nieces, nephews, friends, and business acquaintances who enjoyed his company. He was a member of The CT chapter of the British Iron Association, The Yankee Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America, and numerous other organizations. He did business in Terryville for the past twenty-five years and was an avid railroad fan. Tike will be sorely missed. A memorial service will be held 8 pm on Friday at the Scott Funeral Home, 169 Main St., Terryville. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home Friday evening from 6 to 8 pm. www.scottfuneralhomeinc.com

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Markham, Thomas N.



Thomas Markham, M.D., who died on August 19, 2021, will be buried at 11am on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at the State Veterans Cemetery located at 317 Bow Lane Middletown, CT 06457. Friends and family are welcome to join us as we honor his life and service.

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Pelletier, Frances M.



The beautiful life of Frances M. Pelletier ended on November 15, 2021, in South Windsor, Connecticut, from complications of the ugly disease of Alzheimer’s. She was the beloved wife of Patrick L. Pelletier. She was born Frances Mary Martin, August 14, 1944, in the lakeside village of Sinclair Maine, the second oldest of eight children of Gerard and Gilda (Michaud) Martin. She graduated with honors from St Agatha (Maine) High School class of 1961. Fran worked in the credit department of G. Fox & Co. (now Macy’s), and at SNET (now AT&T). On May 27, 1966, mutual friends introduced “Fran” Martin and “Pat” Pelletier to each other. On their first date, they saw the romance movie, Dr. Zhivago. Their own love story quickly blossomed, and they married in 1967. They were blessed with a premature lovely petite baby girl, Lisa, in 1971. Fran chose to be a stay-at-home Mom, leading an exemplary life of learning, teaching, and volunteering. Fran and Pat lived in Newington CT for 35 years, in Vernon CT, and at their homestead in the Tampa Bay region of Florida. Frances was talented, generous, patriotic, and energetic. She was an accomplished cook and baker, amassing a collection of hundreds of cookbooks. She purchased a sewing machine and a serger machine, taught herself to operate both, and created thousands of garments, household, and craft items. She anonymously donated a great many to organizations and the needy. She maintained a spotless and organized home, and always welcomed the newer technologies of computers, iPads, and smartphones. Frances was a devout Catholic and served six years as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary’s Church, Newington, often bringing holy communion, brightness, and hope to housebound parishioners. She volunteered for eight years at her daughter’s school, St. Mary’s, Newington. Fran never wanted a dull moment. At times she took on part-time employment, for years as a customer service rep at Lechmere Store in Newington. In retirement, Fran and Pat traveled throughout the USA and Canada. They found adventures in 38 states, including an exciting rafting trip on the Colorado River and a private tour of the Pentagon. They explored Florida’s Gulf coast, knowing the good places from St Pete Beach to Clearwater Beach. They enjoyed Yankees games in NYC and at spring training in Tampa, attended Big East basketball games and men’s NCAA Final Four. Fran took a quarterly jaunt to the casino to play poker at the Let-it-Ride table and became one of the few to hit the elusive royal flush, in spades. Fran loved life and children. She cherished her three grandchildren’s sleepovers, falling for their practical jokes, and sharing loads of hearty laughter with them. Her patient, gentle love and support for her daughter and grandchildren cannot be overstated. Frances came from French ancestry, including deep Acadian (Cajun) roots. She was attractive with lovely blue eyes, always immaculately groomed, and classy dressed. Her captivating smile once made the “smile of the day” on the front page of a CT newspaper. Afflicted early with Alzheimer’s disease, Fran was closely protected and cared for by her husband Pat, for many years. She then lived in Memory Care at Brookdale South Windsor, continuing to receive the compassionate care she deserved. Frances is survived by her husband of 54 years, Patrick L. Pelletier; her beloved daughter and best friend Lisa A. Bzowickyj and Lisa’s husband Daniel R. Bzowickyj of Tolland; her treasured granddaughter, U.S. Army ROTC cadet Katherine “Katie” N. Bzowickyj, at the University of Rhode Island; her two special grandsons, Matthew D. Bzowickyj, at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana; and Michael R. Bzowickyj, a student at Kingswood-Oxford School, West Hartford. She also leaves four brothers, Robert “Bob” Martin of St. David Maine, Jerry Martin of Glastonbury CT, Paul Martin of Sinclair Maine, and Joel Martin of Bristol, CT. Frances was predeceased by her infant daughter “Baby Anne”, and three younger siblings, Marie Martin, Bernadette Franck, and James Martin. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, November 22, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary’s Church, 626 Willard Ave, Newington. Friends and relatives are invited to call on Sunday November 21, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 P.M. at Fisette-Batzner Funeral Home at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, CT 06111. Frances will be lovingly laid to rest in Mount St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield, CT. In place of flowers, Frances’ memory can be honored with a donation in her name to a Pro-Life organization of the donor’s choice. To share a memory with Frances’s family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.



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Lancot, Shirley L.



On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, Shirley Louise Lancot, loving mother of four children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, passed away at the age of 95. Born June 15, 1926 in Detroit, Mich., Shirley lived a glorious life raising a family, working, travelling throughout Europe, and creating strong bonds of loving friendship wherever she went. Her working life spanned service in the U.S. Army Air Corps, working in General Motors’ safety office, serving as a deaconess at the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, Mass., real estate sales, and a final stint with Ethan Allen. Shirley had a flair for interior design and word play – working the New York Times crossword puzzle every Sunday into the final weeks of her life. Shirley could light up a room and set a dance floor on fire – and she was the heart and soul of her loving family. Shirley is survived by her children: Mark Steven (wife: Ellen), Suzanne, Elizabeth Michele, and Roger Curtis (wife: Regina); as well as grandchildren Heather, Ashley, and John Garver; Daniel, Brian, and Emma Lancot; and Charles, Samuel, and Thomas Lancot; and great grandchildren Theo, Ethan, and Nova. The family asks that any donations in Shirley’s name be given either to the Virginia Connolly Residence assisted living facility in Simsbury, Conn., or to a favorite hospice charity.

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Smedberg, Lawrence



Lawrence Smedberg, 91, of Rocky Hill, husband of the late Anne (Connors) Smedberg, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 15, 2021. He was born on February 10, 1930 to the late William and Alberta (Elton) Smedberg in Southington. After High School Lawrence joined the Army and settled in Rocky Hill with Anne and worked for Chandler Evans for over 30 years, retiring as a supervisor. Lawrence is survived by his children, Paul Smedberg and his partner, Michael, Jon Smedberg and his wife Natalie and daughter, Mary Lou Bernier. His grandchildren, Corey, Chad, Connor, Luc and Claire. He is predeceased by his siblings, William, George, Leonard, Carol and Frances. Friends and family may call on the Smedberg family on Saturday, November 20, 2021 from 11:00am-12:00noon at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield. A burial will follow in Village Cemetery, 1 Marsh Street, Wethersfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association. For further information, or to leave a condolence, please visit FarleySullivan.com

Farley-Sullivan
Funeral Home

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Trinks, Gary R.



Gary R. Trinks, 62, of Windsor and formerly of Manchester, passed away after a short illness on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. Gary was born in Hartford on July 22, 1959 and resided in Manchester for over 25 years prior to moving to Windsor in the beginning of 2021. He was the beloved husband of the late Patricia (Church) Trinks. A former participant of the Special Olympics Connecticut, Gary graduated from George J. Penney High School, class of 1979 and worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for many years. He loved to detail automobiles, play video games, and watch NASCAR. He was the treasured son of Richard H. Trinks and the late Jeanne (Beauregard) Trinks. He leaves his siblings to mourn his death, Steven Trinks and his wife Karen, Donna Porter and her husband David, Christopher Trinks and his wife Bernadette, and Michele Waterman. He also leaves his nieces and nephew, Alicia & Richard Porter, Katie Trinks, Heather Denas and Ashley Pierce; his great nephews and great nieces, Avery and Caleb Porter, Kennedy Pierce and Charlotte Denas; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Gary was a very kind and generous individual who loved his family, whom affectionately called him “Boo Boo”, and will miss him. Private funeral service and burial will be held at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Gary’s name may be made to the Special Olympics Connecticut, 2666 State Street, Suite #1, Hamden, CT 06517. The D’Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford has been entrusted with the care of the funeral arrangements. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoe.com.



D’Esopo
Funeral Chapel

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Rome, Ann (Nicolle)

Bloomfield, Connecticut



Ann Nicolle Rome (89), born in Hartford in 1932 and a Bloomfield resident most of her life, passed away peacefully on November 18, 2021 at Seabury retirement community in Bloomfield, surrounded by her four children, on the Wintonbury Avenue site of the former A.C. Petersen farmstead, just a few hundred yards from where, amidst cornfields and woodlands, Ann had first raised them.

Ann herself had grown up in the heart of Bloomfield Center, on Jerome Avenue where the Wintonbury Mall is now located. She attended Center School and Bloomfield High School, graduating in 1950. She graduated from The University of Connecticut in 1954, along with her high school sweetheart and future husband of 34 years, Lewis Rome, with a bachelor’s degree in Child Development from the School of Education. Ann became a home economics teacher, student teaching at Windsor High School and then in the public schools of Bourne, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, before settling back in Bloomfield as a mother and homemaker. A few years later she realized a schoolgirl dream shared with fellow UConn graduate Lucy (Woodford) Wirsul to start a pre-school with cows and chickens in an outbuilding on the grounds of the Woodford Farm, with affordable prices – \$2.50 per child per week, or \$3.00 per family. Many who attended still speak warmly of those days.

Ann’s mother, Frances (Werth) Nicolle, was Irish and German and also trained as an educator. Clues to Ann’s lifelong taste for learning and creative activities for children are to be found in her mom’s leanings.

Ann’s father’s origins were both French and English. Frank Nicolle’s father’s family was from the Channel Island of Guernsey (which Ann finally had the opportunity to visit in the 1980’s, staying with her cousin and lifelong pen-pal Jeanne Nicolle Bonnefin). On his mother’s side, an ancestor, Thomas White, is reputed to have been the first English Pilgrim child born in Massachusetts, aboard the Mayflower, just before it made landfall at wintry Plymouth Bay in 1620. During the Great Depression, Frank moved to Hartford after a job on the Maine Turnpike dried up, when he heard there was work in Connecticut. After some years, he founded his own construction company in Bloomfield Center.

As a high-schooler, Ann was outgoing and a leader in student government, and, with the likes of her friend Catherine (D’Addeo) Williams, she enjoyed many extracurricular activities. She especially liked to tell of her creation, with Lois (Pinney) Poirot, of a singing group called “The Hubba Hubba Girls” at Bloomfield High. Ann was also a founder of the Bloomfield Junior Fish & Game Club.

As an adult, Ann loved school and community events, concerts, plays, sports, and the like – so long as children were involved. There were her sons’ baseball or basketball games almost every night, followed by quick stops at Wurdig’s, and a leadership role in the launch of Bloomfield Midget Football. Later came hundreds more of her grandchildren’s ballgames, dance performances, and concerts.

Children were always, always Ann’s focus. Later, Ann came up with a novel way to assist new parents, especially New Americans, seeking to live within their means by offering them pre-loved baby clothes, collected, cleaned, and repaired by Ann – always entirely free-of-charge. There was no institutional support for this initiative, it spontaneously took shape as Ann’s labor of love. Beginning from her home, Ann eventually rented a shop on Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, to accommodate the new mothers who flocked to her, and she happily accepted the moniker of “The Baby Lady.”

Ann’s contributions to the day-to-day lives and to the moral education of her ten grandchildren will be an evergreen legacy. With self-effacing grace, she lived a life of service to others, public and private. Ann’s outgoing personality made her a natural political campaigner at the town, state, and even national levels, but where she really flourished was as a mother hen. When called upon, often on short notice, Ann would host parties for family and friends in the hundreds at the family home.

Ann leaves her four children: Thomas Rome of The Bronx, NY; Richard Rome (Joanne Kaplan Rome) of Potomac, MD; Deborah Rome Szabo (Ronald Szabo) of West Hartford, CT; and David Rome (Stacy Silk Rome) of Farmington, CT. She leaves one great-granddaughter, Gwendolyn, and nine grandchildren: Daniel Szabo, Mo Seck (Kate Skidmore), Rachel Rome (Carl Schmidt), Carrie Szabo Miller (Scott Miller), Karim Rome, Jack Rome, Sam Rome, Tiz Rome, and Isabelle Rome. A beloved tenth grandchild – Samantha Rome – predeceased her. Ann was also predeceased by her parents and her sisters, Patricia and Joan, and brother Tom.

She was also a loving aunt to her Rome and Nicolle nieces and nephews too numerous to list.

Ann was a resident of Seabury for the past 14 years, forming so many special bonds and reconnecting with long-time Bloomfield friends like Al Attardo, and benefiting from the wonderful care and friendships with the Seabury-at-Home team. The family is grateful to all at Seabury and UConn Health for their kindness and compassion.

May Ann’s memory be a blessing, may God receive her well in Heaven, and restore her to peace in her soul. Calling hours at Molloy Funeral Home, West Hartford, from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 21. Graveside service at Mount St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield, at 1 p.m. on Monday, November 22.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Ann’s name may be made either to: The Rick Rome School in Kigezi, Uganda, via <https://partnersforkigeziorphans.org/>, or “Partners for Kigezi Orphans Home, Inc.,” 1201 F Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20004; or “Samantha Rome Nutmeg Scholarship Fund,” c/o UConn Foundation, 2390 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206, Storrs, CT 06329, or via <https://www.foundation.uconn.edu/>.

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Bradley braces for Thanksgiving travel

Seven things to know about taking off from the busy airport over the holiday

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

WINDSOR LOCKS — The Thanksgiving holiday travel season — traditionally the busiest of the year — kicks off Friday and runs through the Sunday after the turkey-rich holiday, with the number of air travelers expected to surge after the COVID-19 kept many people close to home a year ago.

At Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, travel forecasts show that 85,000 passengers will depart from the airport, with an equal number arriving in the 10-day holiday travel period.

Kevin Dillon, executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority, said the overall, 170,000 traveler volume is more than double that of last year.

“We’re still down from pre-pandemic

levels,” Dillon said during a news conference at the airport Thursday. “But if you look where we’ve been through the summer and into September, we’re still down about 15%, but we’ve recovered nicely, and that’s still a very healthy level of activity.”

Nationally, a record 26 million passengers and crew passed through U.S. airport screening in 2019 during the travel period around Thanksgiving. But that plummeted in 2020

as the pandemic kept people at home.

Here are seven things Bradley International suggests keeping in mind if you are traveling this Thanksgiving, especially if it has been a while since you boarded a plane.

1. Arrive early

Dillon advises arriving 90 minutes early to the terminal for departures, and that doesn’t include the time spent parking, unloading luggage and walking to the terminal. Tack

Turn to Bradley, Page 2



Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council member Daniel Menihan Jr. testifies before the Connecticut State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission on the future of the John Mason statue at the state Capitol. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

State has 25 COVID-19 deaths in past week

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut’s COVID-19 metrics declined somewhat on Thursday, a welcome reprieve from a recent trend of rising caseloads and hospitalizations.

Dr. Thomas Balczak, chief clinical officer for Yale New Haven Health, noted Thursday that while COVID-19 cases have increased slightly across the health system, caseloads remain significantly lower than they were a year ago.

Even so, he expects to see caseloads rise this winter, due to colder temperatures, decreasing humidity levels — which make the virus more transmissible — and more indoor gatherings.

“With the holidays coming, we’ll see some more gatherings, there might be some travel from people coming out of town,” Balczak said. “And as people come out of town and into Connecticut, necessarily, because we are the most vaccinated state in the nation, we will dilute our population with folks that are less likely to be vaccinated.”

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 747 COVID-19 cases out of 29,321 tests administered on Thursday, for a daily positivity rate of 2.55%, a marked decline from recent days, during which the daily positivity rate reached 3% or even above 4%. The state’s weekly positivity rate now stands at 2.98%, unchanged since Wednesday.

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ENFIELD

Town manager leaves council meeting, quits

Bromson: ‘Good luck, have fun’

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

ENFIELD — The town of Enfield is searching for an interim town manager after Christopher Bromson unexpectedly announced he planned to resign and left the room in the middle of a Town Council meeting.

Bromson’s abrupt departure came following a discussion about a proposed bike path. Council member John Santanella, who was elected in November, brought up the lack of information on the path’s community impact in the packet provided to the councilors, according to the video of the meeting.

Bromson seemed to grow frustrated



Bromson

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Monument to be moved?

Connecticut tribes, historians debate removal of Capt. John Mason statue at the state Capitol

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Native American leaders and historians clashed Thursday over whether to remove a state Capitol statue of Capt. John Mason, who led colonial forces in a massacre of the Pequot Indians in 1637.

Centuries later, the two sides could not agree on the role of Mason, a former deputy governor who was depicted as either a war criminal or a heroic figure who led colonial forces during the brutal Indian conflicts of the 17th century. Mason’s opponents say his statue should be removed because he is responsible for killing nearly 400 women, children, and

the elderly in a massacre of Pequot Indians.

“I’m not here to erase that history, but to help put it into a more comprehensive context that not only incorporates the lens of the Pequot people but also reflects the values we have come to embrace in this great country,” said Rodney Butler, tribal chairman for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation in a video statement presented to the Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission at the Legislative Office Building.

“There is no doubt Mason engaged in what we now call genocide,” Butler said.

But one of Mason’s descendants

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The statue of John Mason at the Connecticut State Capitol building. COURANT FILE PHOTO

CVS to shut 900 stores over 3 years

Corporation to focus more on health care services

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

CVS Health Corp. said Thursday it will shut about 900 stores in the next three years and focus more on health care.

The Woonsocket, R.I., parent company of Aetna said it has been evaluating changes in population, consumer buying patterns and future health needs to “ensure it has the right kinds of stores in the right locations for consumers and for the business.”

It will shut about 300 stores a year

for the next three years, representing nearly 10% of CVS retail locations. The first sites, which will be closed next spring, have yet to be identified.

CVS said locations will serve as “community health destinations” that offer primary care services, an improved version of its HealthHUB locations with products and services, health and wellness needs and traditional CVS pharmacy stores that provide prescription services and health, wellness, personal care and other retail offerings.

The company reported at the end of 2020 more than 9,900 retail locations and about 1,100 walk-in medi-

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CVS will shut about 300 stores a year for the next three years, representing nearly 10% of CVS retail locations. COURANT FILE PHOTO



Hartford Courant

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CONNECTICUT

Man wounded in afternoon shooting

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A man was wounded in a Hartford shooting Wednesday afternoon, police said. Shortly before 4:30 p.m., the ShotSpotter gunshot detection system signaled gunfire in the area of 7 Annawan St., near the intersection with Wethersfield Avenue in the Barry Square neighborhood. Officers were sent to the address and when they arrived, they found signs a gun had been fired nearby at 202 Wethersfield, police said. They did not find a victim. Moments later, a man in his 20s arrived at the

hospital to be treated for a gunshot wound, they said. The wound is not believed to be life-threatening. He is the second victim of a non-fatal shooting this week and the 145th this year. A woman survived being critically injured when she was shot in the Frog Hollow neighborhood Monday night, police said. The number of city gunshot survivors this year surpasses the number of shooting victims in all of 2018 and in all of 2019 — each of which had 143 gunshot victims. The number of victims is falling behind the number in 2020, though, which ended with 225.

South Windsor man arrested after he slaps 2-month-old in face, police say

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A South Windsor man who police said slapped a 2-month-old baby in the face because she was crying was arrested on an assault charge Wednesday. The man, who lived with the child on Fitch Meadow Lane, was charged with third-degree assault and risk of injury to a minor, police said. The Courant is not releasing the man's name in keeping with new guidelines to generally only identify those accused of the most serious crimes. According to the arrest warrant affidavit, a visiting nurse called the state

Department of Children and Families after seeing the baby with a swollen and black and blue eye. The child protective agency in turn contacted police. When questioned, both the baby's mother and the man at first denied that anyone had injured the child, the warrant said. The mother told police she noticed the injury when she returned from getting food Nov. 6. After repeatedly denials, the man eventually said he slapped the baby out of frustration. The baby was crying, and the man has sensory problems, he told police. He is on the Autism spectrum and has Asperger Syndrome,

and the baby had "a certain cry that really bothers him," according to the warrant. He said he tried walking her around and putting her pacifier in her mouth, but it didn't work. He "used his right hand, in an open hand motion," to strike the baby, the warrant said. He acknowledged he needs to get some help, it said. The baby was placed with her grandparents. Police learned that the baby also has a fractured tibia, or shin bone but the man said "he didn't mess with the legs."

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Virus

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As of Thursday, Hartford, Litchfield, New Haven, New London and Windham counties reported "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, while Fairfield, Middlesex and Tolland counties had "substantial" levels of transmission. At Rockville General Hospital in Vernon, Department of Public Health commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani said that while the state's positivity rate has gone up and down recently, the state's town-by-town map of COVID-19 caseloads has grown more concerning. Last week, 31 Connecticut towns and cities qualified for the state's "red alert" category, meaning they averaged at least 15 daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents. This week, 67 towns meet that threshold. "They overlap pretty much with our areas that are less vaccinated," Juthani said. According to state data, compared to their vaccinated counterparts, unvaccinated Connecticut residents have a four times higher risk of being infected with COVID-19, a seven times higher risk of being hospitalized, and a 12-times higher risk of dying from the virus.

Hospitalizations

As of Thursday, Connecticut reported 241 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 across the state, a decrease of six individuals since Wednesday. Hospital officials say the vast majority of those hospitalized with serious COVID-19 symptoms are unvaccinated. Of the patients hospitalized with COVID-19 on Thursday, 173 (71.8%) were not fully vaccinated, according to state data.

Deaths

Connecticut reported 25 additional COVID-19 deaths on Thursday, bringing its total during the pandemic to 8,834. The United States has now recorded 767,980 deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Thursday, 81.8% of all Connecticut residents and 92.8% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 71.5% of all residents and 82% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. Additionally, 19.2% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents at least 18 years old have received a booster dose. Juthani noted on Thursday that so far, Connecticut has vaccinated about 36,000 children ages 5 to 11.

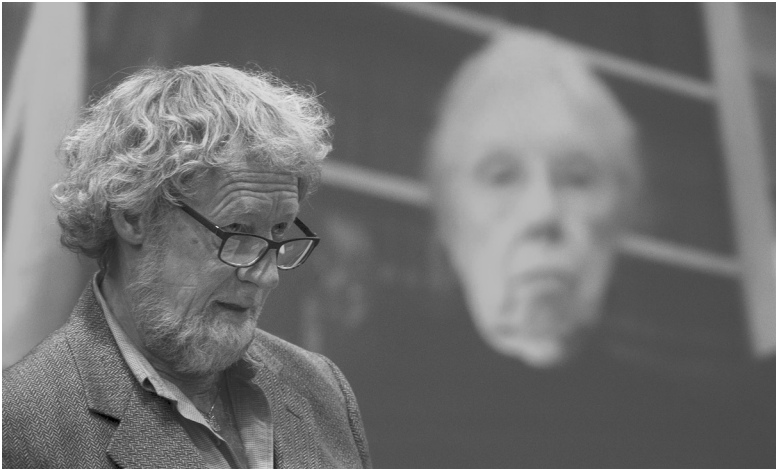
Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Statue

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testified in front of the preservation commission that the history of the war has been mischaracterized. Marcus Mason Maronn said that the commission's debate over removing the statue is "a frivolous waste of time" that should instead be a matter for historians and scholars, rather than the state legislature. "The term massacre takes on the connotation of defenseless people, which is simply not the case, as there were many warriors present in the village at the time, contrary to the long-standing notion that there were none there," Maronn said. "It was [Mohegan sachem] Uncas who was the true architect of the Pequot War. ... We are here now because some present-day Pequots still want revenge against John Mason in the form of total character assassination," Mason said. "They refuse to recognize or accept their own ancestors' culpability as well as other colonial leaders, while they place all the blame only on Mason." More than 350 years ago, Mason's victories over Indians in colonial Connecticut led to his appointment as a major general with control of the state's militia. He also was

given hundreds of acres of land in southeastern Connecticut, including Mason's Island, at the mouth of the Mystic River, and much of what is now Norwich. He died at 72 in Norwich. Among the options being discussed are moving the statue to the Old State House in downtown Hartford or keeping the statue in its current spot but adding additional statues of Indigenous leaders like Uncas and Pequot sachem Sassacus. The Mason statue stands on the north side of the Capitol building. The Capitol currently has empty spots for eight more statues, including available spaces on either side of the statue of former Gov. Ella Grasso of Windsor Locks on the building's south side near Capitol Avenue. State historian Walter Woodward and others said that the state should be adding more statues in the empty niches outside the state Capitol. "We should tell Connecticut's history — the bad parts and the good parts," Woodward said. "Leaving Mason up here is a classic opportunity at re-education." The commission is expected to make a recommendation at its next quarterly meeting on Dec. 14, but the final decision will be up to the legislature.



With a video monitor of Ann Burton from the Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames in Connecticut behind him, John Mason descendent Marcus Mason Maronn testifies to the Connecticut State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission on the future of the John Mason statue at the state Capitol. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Ann Burton of the National Society of Colonial Dames in Connecticut, agreed with Woodward that additional statues should be installed at the Capitol. "We may not like him, but for better or worse, John Mason was a founder of our state," Burton told the commission. "We want to add to our knowledge, not erase it." But Shirley "Laughing Woman" Patrick, the vice chairwoman of the

Elders Council of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, said that the statue represents pain and suffering for Native Americans. "We are in dark times, not only here in Connecticut but all over the world," she told the commission. "God bless all of you, and pray about this so you do the right thing."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com.

Bradley

from Page 1

on extra time for that, Dillon said.

2. Know parking options

Parking in the garage at Bradley has become a popular option, not only because it is closer to the terminal but because rates were reduced during the pandemic. "People have to understand they may not be able to get into the garage parking," Dillon said. "The thing that we are trying to stress is that there will be plenty of parking available for Bradley. It may not be in the parking garage, but in one of our remote lots." The airport will set up electronic signs pointing the way to available parking on open lots. Checking parkbradleyairport.com before arrival will also provide more information on parking availability. Family and friends picking up passengers at the airport should consider using the cell phone waiting lot on Light Lane. Parking in the lot is free.

3. Wear a mask

Even though many towns and cities in Connecticut have eased mask-wearing requirements, they are still in place for airports and airline flights, Dillon said. "You put your mask on when you come into the terminal building, and you don't take it off until you get to your destination, Dillon said. One exception: if you are visiting a



Air travelers must wear a mask in the terminal at Bradley International Airport and on their flights. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

concession in the terminal, travelers are allowed slip off the mask while eating or drinking.

4. Know COVID-19 protocols

Dillon said proof of vaccination is not required for domestic travel out of Bradley, but there may be some requirements for international travel. Bradley advises travelers planning a trip outside the country to check with their specific airlines before their flights. Connecticut does not require COVID-19 testing for arriving passengers, but testing remains

available in the baggage claim area.

5. Have ID ready for security

"We are seeing a lot of delays with people fumbling through their luggage, their purses and their wallets," said William Csonotos, federal security director for Connecticut for Transportation Security Administration. The two most common forms of identification are driver licenses and passports.

6. Pack carry-on wisely

Restrictions remain on the sizes of liquids, gels and aerosols. They

are limited to 3.4-ounce containers, Csonotos said. One exception: air passengers can carry on up to 12-ounce containers of hand sanitizers. The size of the container will still trigger a check of the carry-on, but it will be allowed by security personnel. Larger sizes of these items are permitted in checked bags. And it goes without saying that Grandma's special gravy or cranberry sauce should be checked, in larger containers and, of course, well sealed. Still wondering about what you can pack? Check out: www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/whatcanibring/all

7. Next time, consider enrolling in TSA pre-check in

Enrolling in the TSA's pre-check in program can cut waits in line to under five minutes. Light jackets and shoes don't have to be removed and laptops can be kept in their cases, Santos said. Even belts might not have to be removed, if they don't touch off a security alarm. It's a bit late for Thanksgiving travel because approval takes 2-3 weeks. Enrolling is done at the airport or at the TSA's web site, TSA.gov.

A report from the Associated Press is included.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Bromson

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has he responded to Santanella, as well as questions raised by other council members, some of them newly elected, pursuant to the complexities of funding local government. Someone off-camera uttered "Wow." "Wow?" Bromson responded. "I talked to you before the election and said my time here was through," Bromson continued. "Tonight, watching all of you and meeting in executive session, I think it's time for you to pick your own manager, for you to proceed on your own course. So what I'm going to do is leave now, I'm going to make my resignation effective in two weeks." "Good luck, have fun," Bromson added before leaving. The council then took a brief recess. Bromson sent an email to town officials later that evening to reiterate his plan to resign by Dec. 6, the date of the next council meeting, Mayor Robert Cressotti said. Bromson did not elaborate on his reasons for his resignation in the email, Cressotti added. It was unclear if Bromson has

completed any formal resignation paperwork. Cressotti said the incident came as "a shock and a surprise" to the council. "I can't speak for Chris because I'm not quite sure what his thinking was at the time," Cressotti said. "The only thing I can say is that he's put a lot of time and effort into the town of Enfield. I respect everything he's done, there's a lot of initiatives that he's responsible for." Cressotti said he wasn't aware of any pent-up frustrations Bromson had with the council. Bromson did not reply to a request for comment. The executive secretary to the town manager said Bromson is on vacation. "I'm surprised, it's unfortunate, that's really all I can say," said Gina Cekala, Enfield's deputy mayor. "Chris is a phenomenal, a great town manager, he really is. He did great work, and honestly, I hope he stays." Cekala highlighted the plans to redevelop Higgins Park, located behind the Enfield town hall, which she said was an initiative from Bromson's office. The projects, which include a walking path, playscape and

basketball court, were a highlight of the 2021-22 spending budget Bromson's office proposed in June. Tax rates weren't raised despite a nearly 5.5% increase in town spending. "[Bromson] was a doer, he got things done," Cekala said. "He was phenomenal, he did a lot of good things for this town." Bromson was appointed acting town manager in May 2018, and made the full-time town manager that September. He served as the town attorney in Enfield from 1989 to 2008 in addition to other roles with the town. Enfield Democrats won control of the Town Council for the first time in 14 years in November's election, but Cressotti and Cekala downplayed that as a factor for Bromson's departure. "[Bromson] doesn't care about politics, he cares about Enfield," Cekala said. John Wilcox, Enfield's finance director, is serving as town manager on a temporary interim basis while the town searches for a replacement. Cressotti said Kasia Purcillo, the assistant town manager, is on maternity leave until February.

Seamus McAvoy can be reached at smcavoy@courant.com.

CVS

from Page 1

cal clinics. "Our retail stores are fundamental to our strategy and who we are as a company," Chief Executive Officer Karen Lynch said. "We remain focused on the competitive advantage provided by our presence in thousands of communities across the country, which complements our rapidly expanding digital presence." CVS said it planned to offer jobs elsewhere in the company to employees affected by the store closings. Spencer Perlman, managing partner and director of health care research at Veda Partners in Bethesda, Md., said CVS was looking to reduce its pharmacy business, which increasingly is done by mail, and to increase its health care services. "A lot of this comes down to the Amazonization of retail behavior," he said. "Rather than go to the pharmacy ... you can just get something delivered to your door." At the same time, CVS is looking to draw customers to stores

to buy higher mark-up groceries. "To the degree you have less traffic they're looking at new ways to bring people into stores," he said. And bolstering health care services plays to the increasing ease of non-hospital care and urgent care as entry points in the health care system, Perlman said. "The practice of health care is shifting more to outpatient and urgent care, to less traditional ways of delivering primary care," he said. CVS said it expected to record a charge in the fourth quarter of \$1 to \$1.2 billion or between 56 cents per share and 67 cents per share related to the write-down of lease, property and equipment. As a result of the planned store closings CVS has reduced its per-share guidance for the year to a range of \$5.46 to \$5.67, from \$6.13 to \$6.23. Analysts expect earnings this year of \$5.87 per share, according to Zacks Investment Research Inc. Shares closed higher, at \$95.34, up 2.6%.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

Lamont’s Democratic Party exec pick declines

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

The launch of Gov. Ned Lamont’s week-old reelection campaign coincides with the mishandling of a political personnel move that has left the Connecticut Democratic Party without an executive director.

Lamont signed off on Matthew Brokman taking over as executive director of the party while retaining his job as chief of staff to the House Democratic majority, prompting concerns about potential conflicts.

In the face of private questions raised within the party and a public challenge from at least one Republican leader, Brokman has declined the executive director post and will remain as the chief of staff to House Majority Leader Jason Rojas, D-East Hartford.

“It was something that we thought we could balance, that ultimately we decided wouldn’t work,” Brokman said.

Aside from concerns about an executive director working less than

full time in a statewide election year, the dual posts also would have put Brokman in the awkward position of overseeing fundraising and working on legislation.

Legislators are barred from raising money during legislative sessions, a recognition that soliciting or accepting contributions from persons who may have interests in pending legislation can pose a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict.

House Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora, R-North Branford, said the original hiring plan clearly had potential to further erode public confidence in government, and he was glad to see it quickly abandoned — as he publicly urged last week. Candelora’s public criticism mirrored what some Democrats were saying privately.

In a brief interview, Lamont acknowledged Tuesday the dual post had raised questions about conflicts that made it untenable for Brokman to hold both jobs.

“In politics in general, and espe-

cially party politics, I think you’ve got to be ‘Caesar’s wife,’” Lamont said, meaning above reproach. “I want to make sure that nobody has any questions.”

Rojas, who like Lamont initially saw no conflict, said he and others concluded there was no way to detach the party job from the legislative one.

“I think the ultimate challenge was a desire to have him serve in that role on a full-time basis, completely detached from the legislature, and my position that I couldn’t afford to do that, because he is really important to our team and the operations of the house,” Rojas said. “We just arrived at the conclusion that we weren’t going to be able to balance those two interests.”

Twice in the past decade, Democrats in Connecticut have faced scandal or at least significant questions over fundraising, first involving a 2012 congressional campaign and then contributions by state contractors to the state party in 2014.

The episode involving Brokman underscores the governor’s distant relationship with the party and its roles in campaigns. Lamont has run three times for statewide office, each time self-funding his campaigns.

He did benefit, however, in 2018 by an effort led by U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat elected to a second term that year, to identify and turn out Democratic supporters.

Next year, the governor, lieutenant governor, the other four state constitutional officers, 187 state legislative seats, all five congressional representatives and U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal will be on the ballot.

Lamont and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz filed papers last week creating campaign committees.

“It’s really important to the legislators. Last cycle it was very important to mayors. It’s very important to constitutionals. It’s very important to congressionals,” Lamont said of the party. “Susan and I have our campaign, and we’re

part of that process.”

Nancy DiNardo is the state chair of the Democratic Party, but the governor traditionally is its leader and dictates the hiring of its executive director.

On Tuesday, Lamont mingled with DiNardo and Ben Proto, the Republican state chair, at the kickoff of Connecticut Foodshare’s holiday giving drive.

DiNardo declined comment on Brokman’s appointment and un-appointment, saying only that the search was on for a successor to Jacqueline Kozin, who resigned.

“We’re actively looking for somebody,” DiNardo said. “Obviously, the governor’s involved with it. But we all just want to make sure we get the right person. Jacqueline Kozin did a phenomenal job. She set a high bar.”

“I’ve asked some folks for recommendations, but I think the political guys are a lot more involved in that than I am,” Lamont said. “What I want to do is have somebody in there with strong organizational abilities — and no questions asked.”

Hartford, Stamford winners in House redistricting

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

Connecticut’s bipartisan Reapportionment Commission adopted new district maps for the state House of Representatives on Thursday, leaving incumbents scrambling to assess the impact on reelection prospects in 2022.

Despite population losses, Hartford appears likely to still control six House seats, thanks to mapmakers crossing the Connecticut River to place 3,282 South Windsor residents in a district represented by Rep. Brandon McGee, D-Hartford.

Stamford, the state’s second-largest and fastest-growing city, picked up a seventh House seat, a reflection of nearly all population growth recorded in the 2020 Census coming in Fairfield County.

No one in the 151-member House was drawn out of their current district, but several face harder races as a result of revisions, most notably a freshman, Rep. Brian Smith, D-Colchester, and a progressive leader, Rep. Anne Hughes, D-Easton.

The closely guarded map was posted on the Reapportionment Commission website after the unanimous vote, giving the public and rank-and-file House members their first glance at Connecticut’s new political terrain.

Hughes, the leader of the House Progressive Caucus, immediately saw that the eastern portion of Easton, near where she lives, now was in a district with neighboring Monroe.

“I just texted as soon as I as soon as I saw the map, and I was like, ‘I’m still living my district, right?’” Hughes said.

House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, the co-chair of the commission, assured her that was the case.

Her 135th district actually got safer for Democrats, but Easton will be a weaker base if she is challenged in a primary by a Democrat from neighboring Weston, which has the bigger share of voters and nominating convention delegates.

Smith, who won a special election in 2020 in the 48th District, succeeding the late Linda Orange, lost a portion of Democratic Mansfield and picked up Bozrah and Franklin. The changes will make the district friendlier to the GOP.

The recently announced retirement of Rep. Whit Betts, R-Bristol, eased the way to accommodate Rep. Cara Pavalock-D’Amato, R-Bristol, who is moving to a new home in Betts’ 78th District.

“It was interesting because Cara would have retired and run possibly in the 78th when Whit retired,” said House Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora, R-North Branford. Instead, her 77th District was revised to encompass her new neighborhood in Bristol. In northeastern Connecticut, the 52nd District of Rep. Kurt Vail, R-Stafford, had to be drawn due to an unusual source of population loss: Inmates no longer are counted where they are imprisoned.

Vail’s district includes Somers, the home of two prisons. To accommodate the population loss, his district now will include Union and a portion of Woodstock.

Lobbying by Wilton and Goshen succeeded in the new map centering a district in Wilton and placing all of currently divided Goshen in the sprawling 64th District of northwestern Connecticut.

The Reapportionment Commission actually functions as two separate units: Four House members, two from each party, working on House districts; and four senators, two from each party, focusing on Senate districts.

The Senate still is working on its map, and negotiations on a congressional map will wait until the Senate is done.

The congressional map is unlikely to be done before the constitutional deadline of Nov. 30, meaning it will be adopted under the supervision of the Connecticut Supreme Court.



Google has selected Connecticut Foodshare as one of 20 food assistance organizations nationwide to receive \$100,000 in donations to help address food insecurity. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Connecticut Foodshare to receive \$100,000 from Google

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Google has selected Connecticut Foodshare as one of 20 food assistance organizations nationwide to receive \$100,000 in donations to help address food insecurity, the technology company announced Thursday.

Connecticut Foodshare, a local food bank, will receive \$50,000 in unrestricted sponsorship dollars and \$50,000 in Google Ad Grants. The donations are part of Google’s Fall Food Moment, an initiative aimed at combating food insecurity as the holiday season approaches.

“When you struggle with food insecurity, it can be hard to ask for help. Google makes it easier for those who need food assistance to find it — no matter where they live,” Dr. Katie Martin, executive director of the Institute for Hunger Research & Solutions at Connecticut Foodshare, said in a statement.

“I want to thank Google for stepping up and providing this much needed donation

to help families in need,” Gov. Ned Lamont said in a statement. “I was proud to stand with Google a few weeks ago as they announced a partnership with our state community colleges and this commitment to Foodshare shows me they care about Connecticut from top to bottom and I am proud to see them as a partner and a friend to our state, once again.”

About 480,000 Connecticut residents continue to face food insecurity, which is defined as the inability to have reliable access to affordable and nutritious food, according to Foodshare.

“Tens of millions of people face food insecurity across the United States, and the ongoing pandemic has only exacerbated the issue,” Emily Ma, head of Food for Good at Google, said in a statement.

According to the company, Google searches for “extra food stamps ct” increased by 190% this year. Searches in the state for “food donation near me” increased 50% during the first week of November.

Foodshare discontinued its emergency

drive-through food distribution sites at the end of October after operating them since April 2020. The sites were distributing fewer than 1,000 meals each day, according to Foodshare CEO Jason Jakubowski, down from 2,800 at their peak.

People can still access any of the organization’s 700 brick-and-mortar and pantry sites for assistance, or visit <https://www.ctfoodshare.org/find-help/> for more information.

Google has also streamlined the process for users searching for information regarding food assistance, the company said. Users can locate food banks through Google Search and Maps, access local information about SNAP benefit eligibility and filter grocery store searches for those that accept EBT as payment.

“With the launch of these new features, we’re working to ensure that all Americans get the information they need to put food on their tables, and we’re proud to highlight the organizations doing the critical work to tackle food insecurity head on,” Ma said.

Student accused of making threats against Cheney Tech had knife, state police say

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

There was a stepped-up police presence at Cheney Tech in Manchester Thursday after a student accused of making threats against the school was found to be armed with a knife, state police said.

The student was taken off a school bus on its way to Howell Cheney Technical High School, 791 West Middle Turnpike, and transported to an area hospital, they said.

No one was injured, and police said there is no threat to the public. The police pres-

ence Thursday is out of an “abundance of caution,” they said.

Police were first alerted to a problem shortly after 6:45 a.m., when troopers from the Troop H barracks in Hartford learned from a family member that a Cheney Tech student was “in emotional crisis and had allegedly made threats to the school,” Trooper Sarah Salerno said. The student was on a bus headed to the school at the time.

Troopers and Manchester police officers intercepted the school bus and found and detained the student. Police recovered the knife, she said.

The investigation of the incident is in its early stages, Salerno said, and more information will be released when it is available.

The school, which is part of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, offers programs in automotive, engineering and information systems technologies as well as in culinary arts..

It also teaches the trades, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning; electrical; carpentry and metal fabrication, among others, according to its website.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
OLD SAYBROOK ZONING COMMISSION**

At the Old Saybrook Zoning Commission meeting of November 15, 2021 the following decisions were rendered:

A. "Pasta Vita" Application for Site Plan Review Add two 108 s.f. dormers for additional office space and mechanical room/storage 225 Elm Street, Assessor's Map 38/Lot 3 Industrial I District, Coastal Area Management Zone Applicant: RLC Properties Agent: Joe Wren, PE. APPROVED

B. "Cumberland Farms" Application for minor modification to Special Exception Permit to add a 118 s.f. storage box. 602 Boston Post Road, Assessor's Map 40, Lot 50, B-2 District, Pedestrian Node. Applicant: Cumberland Farms, Inc. Agent: Joseph P. Williams Esq. APPROVED

Dated at Old Saybrook, Connecticut this 19th day of November 2021
Robert Friedmann, Chairman
11/19/2021 7087745

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MIDDLETOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**
DECEMBER 2, 2021
PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS PRIOR TO OR AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

1. Request for a variance of Section 21.02 to permit the installation of a handicap ramp and walkway within the required front and side yards on property located at 13 Wall Street. Applicant/agent William Owens V2021-9

2. Request for a variance of Section 21.02 to permit the installation of a shed within 5 ft of the side property line on property located at 181 West Street. Applicant/agent Troy Hightower V2021-10

Steven Kovach, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
11/19, 11/26/2021 7087205

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated:
ExtraSpace Storage, 56 Pameacha Ave, Middletown, Ct 06457 860-575-7610

December 1, 2021 at 11:00 AM
Daniel Nielsen
Unit# 3158
Tools, Housewares

Katrina Lynn Forman
Unit# 4062
Household Items

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
11/19/2021, 11/26/2021 7085742

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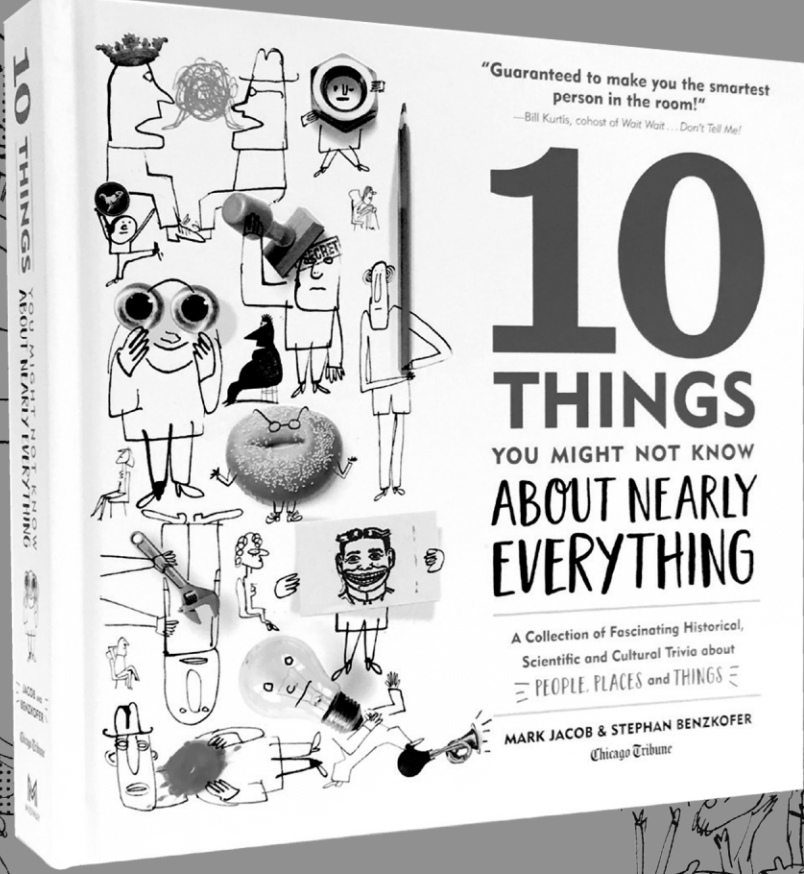
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FACT #341

The folks who brought us Reddi-wip whipped cream had another brainstorm in the 1960s: Reddi-Bacon.



10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.



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FACT #84

A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #147

When someone uses chitchat, noises, or mannerisms to distract or mislead an opponent during poker or another game, it's called "coffeehousing."

FACT #178

Genophobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238

Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

FACT #279

Before Sir Thomas More was beheaded in 1535, he moved his lengthy beard aside, saying it "had never committed any treason."

FACT #302

Tweety Bird, the animated Looney Tunes character, was originally pink. But censors complained that Tweety looked naked, so animators gave the bird yellow feathers.

FACT #408

Joe Charbonneau, a Belvedere, Ill., native, who played outfield for the Cleveland Indians in the early '80s, used to open beer bottles with his eye socket and drink beer through a straw in his nose.

FACT #459

When actor Clint Eastwood ran for mayor of Carmel, California, in 1986, a major issue was ice cream. Town leaders had banned the sale of ice cream cones, incensing Eastwood and his supporters. They won and overturned the ordinance.

Spike Lee as seen through his brother's lens

David Lee's photos illustrate director's career in new book

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

When David Lee was growing up in Brooklyn, his older brother would drag him out of the house whenever he got the urge to make a film.

"Spike would say, 'You gotta come with me. I'm shooting something,'" says David Lee. "His early impulse was to document. The '77 blackout, he went out and filmed. He would yank me and say, 'Come on. Come on.'"

In an artistic family (Spike and David's father, Bill Lee, is a well-regarded jazz musician who scored several of Spike's early films), David took up still photography. David, four years Spike's junior, discovered photography when an upstairs tenant in their family's brownstone taught him how to process 35mm black-and-white film.

Spike, meanwhile, was already on his way as a movie director. And from the beginning, no one had a front-row seat to the birth and evolution of the master American filmmaker like David. From Spike's first feature film, "She's Gotta Have It," and ever since, David has been his brother's on-set photographer.

He was there to capture Spike, in a Jackie Robinson jersey as Mookie in "Do the Right Thing," in the afternoon light of a Brooklyn street. He was there to photograph Denzel Washington lounging in the backseat of a convertible in "Malcolm X." He was there for some of Chadwick Boseman's last moments on film during the making of "Da 5 Bloods."

"Spike," a new retro-



Filmmaker Spike Lee, from left, with actors Topher Grace and Adam Driver on the set of "BlackKkKlansman." DAVID LEE PHOTOS



"Spike," a new retrospective book, is filled with images taken by the filmmaker's brother David Lee, above.

spective photography book recently published, is filled with images David shot over the years, with stills from Spike's 35-plus films. It even comes complete with custom typography based on Radio Raheem's "LOVE/HATE" brass knuckles

from "Do the Right Thing." It's a hefty, glossy compendium of the still-unfolding career of one of cinema's most clarion voices. It's also an intimate story of family, with siblings on both sides of the camera: Spike as seen through his brother's lens.

"It's kind of funny when your brother becomes famous," David, 60, said. "He's always been my brother, but then he's like a world possession somehow. People in Fort Greene would always talk to him as if they knew him."

And from the start, Spike understood something about self-promotion. Few filmmakers since Alfred Hitchcock have made themselves more recognizable to a moviegoing public. As the unit photographer whose images are used in a movie's

marketing, David's pictures helped create his brother's iconography — including those Nike commercials with Michael Jordan. He fondly remembers an early trailer for "She's Gotta Have It" where Spike sells the movie while hocking tube socks on Fulton Street.

Many images — like that one of Mookie — David can't always recall whose idea it was.

"I don't know if I did it or Spike said, 'Take a picture of this or that.' Spike always had this other awareness of promoting himself," said David. "Spike entered the mainstream on his own terms."

That included, by way of his production company, 40 Acres and a Mule, far more diverse film sets than were seen elsewhere in

the industry. David recalls Spike bringing lists of Black crew members, including himself, to the various guilds to get them inducted into unions.

But the 40 Acres crew — many of whom have lasted since the late '80s and early '90s — also included Spike's actual family. Their younger sister, Joie Lee, has appeared in at least nine of Spike's films. Their younger brother, Cinque Lee, has had various duties, including co-writing 1994's "Crooklyn." There are, David jokes, no business school graduates among the Lees.

But why would Lee want a 360-page capstone to a movie career while still in the midst of it?

Just during the pandemic, Lee has released two

features — the Vietnam war drama "Da 5 Bloods" and the documentary "David Byrne's American Utopia" — been president of the Cannes Film Festival jury and begun prepping a movie musical about the origins of Viagra. He also, like during the '77 blackout, documented New York under the first wave of the pandemic in a short film.

In the book's first pages, Spike explains: "This Book Revisits All Da Werk I've Put In To Build My Body Of Work. Film Is A Visual Art Form And That Sense Of My Storytelling Has Been Somewhat Overlooked. Why Now, After All These Years? FOLKS BE FORGETTING."

For David, the book is a moment to reflect on how his brother's body of work — once received as so incendiary by some — has only grown more prescient with time. When "Do the Right Thing" first debuted, some columnists famously predicted it would incite riots.

"It shouldn't have seemed revolutionary or such a startling conversation to start. It just really underscored the difference to me how white people and Black people, very broadly, view the different attitudes toward race relations," says David. "White people seem eternally startled by Black outrage. It shouldn't be a new story."

David doesn't exclusively shoot Spike's films. He has more than 90 credits. During a recent interview, he was in Pittsburgh for a Netflix film about the civil rights leader Bayard Rustin. And sometimes, their experiences of the past 35 years vary wildly.

"I'm not sitting there courtside at the Knicks games," David says, laughing. "I'm not palling around with the Obamas."

CELEBRITIES

Mirren selected for lifetime honor

From news services

The Screen Actors Guild has selected Dame Helen Mirren as their 57th Life Achievement Award recipient, the union said Thursday.

The English stage and screen actor, 76, has credits spanning over 50 years and has played everything from a gangster's girlfriend in "The Long Good Friday" to Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen." Mirren will be adding this latest honor to a robust collection of awards including an Oscar, a Tony, and multiple SAG, Emmy and BAFTA Awards.

"I am honored to have been chosen to receive the SAG Life Achievement Award," Mirren said in a statement. "Since I was a young actor starting out, I have always been inspired by and learned from American screen acting, so this award is particularly meaningful for me."

With 13 SAG Award nominations and five wins, Mirren is also the most decorated SAG Life Achievement recipient, the union said.

The SAG Awards will air Feb. 27 on TNT and TBS.

Mendes, Cabello split: Camila Cabello and Shawn Mendes are no more — romantically speaking. The "Senorita" duo announced their breakup Wednesday in a pair of matching statements posted to Instagram Stories.

"We've decided to end our romantic relationship but our love for one another as humans is stronger than ever," they wrote in their joint announcement. "We started our relationship as best friends and will continue to be best friends. We so appreciate your support from the beginning and moving forward."

The couple began dating in July 2019, but former Fifth Harmony singer



Helen Mirren will receive the Screen Actors Guild's 57th Life Achievement Award. RICHARD SHOTWELL/INVISION 2019

Cabello, 24, and Mendes, 23, had been collaborating musically since 2015.

Pink recovering from hip surgery: Pop star Pink is on the road to recovery following a difficult week after hip surgery. The singer said in an Instagram post that she'll be on crutches for six weeks, but didn't disclose why she needed the operation.

"It was a brutal first week full of tears and pain, depression, ulcers from meds and constant fevers, but my (husband Carey Hart) brought me through," Pink wrote Wednesday. The two have been married since 2006.

Pink, 42, whose real name is Alecia Beth Moore, also praised her surgeons, writing she gets to see top doctors due to her husband's status as a motocross athlete. "I am never not completely grateful," Pink noted.

Pink said she plans to make a full recovery.

Tyson book coming in 2022: Henry Holt & Company announced Thursday that celebrated commentator and bestselling author Neil deGrasse Tyson will release "Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization" next fall.

The astrophysicist and host of the National Geographic series "StarTalk" says in a statement that "Starry Messenger," a call for science, exploration and rational thought as paths to a better life on Earth, may be his "most important."

Nov. 19 birthdays: TV host Dick Cavett is 85. Designer Calvin Klein is 79. Sportscaster Ahmad Rashad is 72. Actor Allison Janney is 62. Actor Meg Ryan is 60. Actor Jodie Foster is 59. Actor Erika Alexander is 52. Dancer Savion Glover is 48. Singer Tamika Scott is 46. Director Barry Jenkins is 42. Actor Adam Driver is 38. Rapper Tyga is 32.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Catfishing expedition doesn't hold water

Dear Amy: I learned that my boyfriend might have cheated on me.

The story he told me was that a friend of his saw a female (that the friend used to date) on a dating site. The friend wanted to get revenge on this ex, so he used my boyfriend's old profile from the dating site to catfish her.

However, from everything I saw, it seems like my boyfriend was not the middleman, but the primary person.

All the messages between the two were from my boyfriend, and the messages from him sounded just like him, not like his friend.

My boyfriend and I got into an argument, and he left the house.

At the same time he was arguing with me, he was texting the girl, wanting to see her.

He went to her house that night and when he came home, he was acting differently.

Later I spoke with the female involved, and she told me that she and my boyfriend had in fact slept together. He has adamantly denied this, saying that he only went to her house as a bet from his friend, the one who was using his profile on the dating app.

I'm trying to move forward, but I feel like the answers I was given weren't good, and I don't know if I believe my boyfriend. I need a second opinion: How does this situation sound to you? Do you think he cheated?

Should I put this behind me, move on and accept his explanation?

— Wondering and Worried

Dear Wondering: Rome's Bocca della Verità, or "Mouth of Truth," is an ancient marble mask, which according to the popular mediaeval legend will bite the hand off anybody who has told a lie.

The idea is that you place your hand inside the mouth of this large sculptured mask, and then let the magic of the Bocca della Verità be your lie detector. (You might recognize this monument from the Audrey Hepburn/Gregory Peck movie "Roman Holiday.")

Let me put it this way: If your guy had placed his hand inside the "Mouth of Truth" while spinning his entertaining tale (about his friend using his account to catfish a woman), he would be left holding a bloody stump.

So yes, put this behind you. You also might want to put him behind you.

Dear Amy: While I was browsing Facebook the other day, I came across photos my niece "Sandy" had posted of her enjoying her baby shower "with friends and family."

I was stunned, as she never informed me about the event, even though I thought we had a good relationship. Her dad (my younger brother) passed away 11 months ago, and now it seems that she feels that I am no longer family. She is an adult, and of course can choose who she wants to include in her life.

Should I bother to try and keep this relationship?

— Sad Auntie

Dear Sad: You are having a somewhat nuclear reaction to this slight. Yes, you should try to keep — and

grow — this relationship.

Contact your niece (not on social media). Say, "Hi, I saw on Facebook that you had a baby shower. It looked like fun! I'm so happy for you and excited that you are growing your family. I want you to know that I very much want to continue to be a part of your life."

"I miss your dad so much, and I'd be honored to step up and try to carry some of his legacy forward. Please accept my love and congratulations, and I hope we can keep in touch."

Dear Amy: I'm responding to your provocative letter from "Got to Go in L.A.," who asked the timeless question: In a gender nonspecific bathroom, how should a user leave the toilet seat?

Down, Amy, always down. At home or out, if there is a lid on the toilet, put it down before you leave. Many public toilets don't have lids, but if not, the seat itself should always be down. Thank you for giving readers the opportunity to weigh in on the right way to do things!

— Down Danny

Dear Down: Hundreds of responses. Hundreds of "right" answers with plausible justifications — for both up and down.

I agree with you about the lid. That way, the "next" user, no matter the gender, has to "do something" in order to use the toilet.

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‘TICK, TICK ... BOOM!’ ★★½

Miranda lights fuse with Larson’s own musical story

By Michael Phillips
Chicago Tribune

Artists suffer, and fail, and work miracles, sometimes in the same frazzled measure of their lives. The late Jonathan Larson, who died at 35 in the final week of rehearsals for his off-Broadway (then Broadway, then everywhere) musical smash “Rent,” measured out his own tragically abbreviated life in ways that made him typical of a struggling musical theater composer/lyricist, as well as uniquely himself. He was not an easy-breathing collaborator by any accounts, but he was a seriously inspired one. He took inspiration from the greats and then, after his sudden death, went on to inspire so many more coming up behind him.

“Tick, Tick ... Boom!” is the story of that life. It premiered first as a “rock monologue” by Larson himself in 1990. The piece expanded for ensemble performance after Larson’s passing, and now, “Hamilton” creator Lin-Manuel Miranda makes his feature directorial debut with a Netflix-backed screen adaptation starring Andrew Garfield as Larson.

For musical theater fans it’s catnip. And for anyone interested in why some stage-to-screen adaptations work and some don’t, “Tick, Tick ... Boom!” offers a wealth of detail and a confident attack on the material.

We’re dealing with several overlapping frameworks here. We see Larson (Garfield) and company performing a stage production of “Tick, Tick ... Boom!” in one frame. These moments, sometimes part of or most of entire numbers, swoop in and out of scenes of Larson’s earlier, make-



Andrew Garfield plays Jonathan Larson in “Tick, Tick ... Boom!” **MACALL POLAY/NETFLIX**

or-break Playwrights Horizons workshop. That workshop, attended by a crucially supportive Stephen Sondheim (Bradley Whitford), showcased a different, earlier Larson musical: a futuristic dystopian fantasy titled “Superbia.” The other important framework contains the how-he-did-it-and-at-what-cost parts of Larson’s anxious, striving life, as he approached his 30th birthday and juggled his writing ambitions with his job at the Moondance Diner in SoHo. The film, like the stage version, finds Larson eternally at one crossroads or impasse after another. His dancer girlfriend (Alexandra Shipp) can’t yank Jon’s head out of his work long enough for an honest conversation, or a decision on their future together. Jon’s life-long best friend (Robin de Jesús), like many mutual friends, lives in the shadow of AIDS.

The bulk of “Tick, Tick ... Boom!” takes place in 1990, but its concerns could be anytime, anywhere, any artist making any number of passive-aggressive decisions en route to creation. A lot of what happened in Larson’s life around this time found its way into

“Rent,” the show Larson never got to see become the Broadway musical of the ’90s.

There are moments in director Miranda’s film when the visual flourishes crowd the clarity of a scene. In Garfield, we have a fine and ardently sincere actor who can sing and dance well enough, but who has yet to discover the value of holding back emotionally while delivering something vocally or physically. Meantime, the material itself never fully wrestles with what it’s like to live a life wherein “ambition,” as Larson himself wrote, “eats right through you.”

In other words, this is a celebration, not a dissection. On those terms, it’s also a great success.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.
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MPAA rating: PG-13 (for some strong language, some suggestive material and drug references)
Running time: 1:55
How to watch: Now in limited theatrical release; Netflix streaming premiere Nov. 19

‘KING RICHARD’ ★★½

With Smith in charge, Williams sister film centers story on dad

By Michael Phillips
Chicago Tribune

“King Richard” redirects the tennis phenomenon of Venus and Serena Williams away from the sisters and toward their father, Richard. He is played by Will Smith in a performance guaranteed an Oscar nomination because the entire film is built to support that outcome.

What we have here is a moderately good sports biopic with a very fine performance at center court. Secondly, in terms of screen time, debut screenwriter Zach Baylin’s enthusiastic account also manages some of what Richard’s then-wife, Oracene, (Aunjanue Ellis) did to parent, coach, cajole and shape these two particular daughters into ferocious competitors.

The results will please a wide audience. That said: Even the verifiably true material in “King Richard” has a way of coming off like a Hollywood movie.

Richard is a man with a plan, and an early rejection montage in “King Richard” chronicles his efforts to finance his daughter’s training. Meantime, rain or shine, night and day, father and daughters drill on grubby public courts in their Compton neighborhood. Time and again, Richard suffers physical beatings and death threats at gunpoint from the local gangbangers who come sniffing around Serena and Venus.

From there Richard recommitts to his plan, and director Reinaldo Marcus Green recommitts to his movie’s familiar blueprint for success. The chapters flip by, efficiently. The girls flower under their first professional coach, Paul Cohen (Tony Goldwyn). Then, an impasse, followed by a relocation



Will Smith with Demi Singleton, left, and Saniyya Sidney in “King Richard.” **CHIABELLA JAMES/WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

of the family to Florida. There, coach Rick Macci (Jon Bernthal) becomes a family friend. The debates are intense, with Venus getting all the initial focus.

The film feels like a relay race, with the story dominated for a long time by Richard’s home-spun, unerring wisdom, travails and success. Then it hands off to Venus, as she rises like a rocket. Then, a baton-pass to Serena. A lot of it works in spite of the writing. Frustratingly, “King Richard” blandly out the personality differences in Venus (Saniyya Sidney) and Serena (Demi Singleton). The movie makes no apologies about being a loving portrait of Richard. I couldn’t shake the feeling the key Williamses were being marginalized in their own story.

Richard’s rougher edges and harsher parenting and training impulses have been sanded down to a nice, smooth surface.

That’s a shame because Smith is not just a movie star. He’s an extremely savvy dramatic actor. “King Richard” is one sort: a subject-approved, by-the-numbers celebration of tennis titans who stand alone, together. Maybe I just wanted more

of their story, along with Richard’s. Maybe that’s unfair to *this* movie. But for related reasons, assuming they might’ve felt that way at least once in their childhoods, I wouldn’t have minded just one cutaway shot of the girls rolling their eyes for a half-second during one of their father’s lengthy life lessons.

In 1997 Richard Williams told The New York Times: “I started like most parents. I wanted to make a million dollars. I started for the wrong reason. That’s why I don’t feel good about it.” A hint, at least, of that piece of this man’s complicated personality — that’s something that could’ve made a good Will Smith performance varied, challenging, more truthful. And, in the Williams family tradition, great.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.
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MPAA rating: PG-13 (for some violence, strong language, a sexual reference and brief drug references)
Running time: 2:24
How to watch: Premieres Nov. 19 in theaters and on HBO Max



Dianne Wiest as Miriam in the series “Mayor of Kingstown.” **EMERSON MILLER/VIACOMCBS**

Prison is the family business in new drama ‘Mayor of Kingstown’

By Kate Feldman
New York Daily News

Dianne Wiest’s new TV series is not just another role for her.

“Mayor of Kingstown,” which recently premiered on Paramount+, tackles the subject of incarceration in America, something near and dear to the actor’s heart for a long time.

In October, Wiest was at a rally outside Rikers Island, joining the growing protests against the deteriorating conditions inside the New York City jail. It was the culmination of years of prison justice activism, working with groups like the California Coalition of Women’s Prisoners and Survived and Punished, a grassroots prison abolition organization that works to free imprisoned survivors of domestic violence.

The Oscar winner, 73, can rattle off the stats: the number of people incarcerated in the United States, a rate higher than any other country, and how much of the furniture used by the University of California college system is built by prisoners.

“I had become

interested in what in America we do with people who are different or poor, and it seems we put them in jail,” Wiest said.

Then Taylor Sheridan’s script for “Mayor of Kingstown” came across her desk.

The dark drama revolves around the McLusky family of Kingstown, Michigan, a town entirely reliant on its prison. Incarceration is all the McLuskys know. Brothers Mike (Jeremy Renner) and Mitch (Kyle Chandler) work within the system from the outside, fixers who will do anything as long as there’s a favor repaid on the other end. A third brother, played by Taylor Handley, is a police officer.

Wiest’s McLusky matriarch, Miriam, looks over it all with a mixture of disgust and sadness. Locking people up is the family business, but she always hoped for more.

So Miriam teaches history to imprisoned women.

“(Miriam) has to believe that she’s making a drop of difference,” Wiest said.

“If the inmates aren’t with her, then they’re

sitting in their cells doing nothing. If it’s only for an hour or two hours a week, at least they’re getting out of their cells, whether they listen consciously or subconsciously or not at all, something is going in that’s going to give them some thought other than, ‘Am I going to stay alive?’”

Miriam wanted her sons to get out. When they didn’t, she stayed in Kingstown to protect them. But she’s still sticking around, even though her sons don’t need help.

“Mayor of Kingstown” has no good guys, Wiest said. There are people who commit crimes and get caught, and people who commit crimes and haven’t been caught, and people who look the other way when crimes are being committed. Only some of those groups, though, profit off the system.

“We clump,” Wiest said. “‘Throw everybody in prison. Solve the poverty question. Solve the mental health question. Solve the race question. Solve the illegal immigration question. Just lock them up, for heaven’s sake.’ And then we don’t have to deal with it.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): A moneymaking endeavor could come to an end, but don’t panic. As suddenly as one door closes, another may open. Someone who can pull some strings might reach out to you with word of an open position that’s up your alley.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Greener pastures lie ahead. Stop telling yourself you don’t have what it takes to enjoy the lifestyle you desire. Although you might prefer things that are familiar, give yourself permission to venture out of your comfort zone. There’s a lot of possibility out there. Reach out and grab it.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): It’s no longer possible to ignore the elephant in the room. Fortunately, once the truth of an upsetting matter is faced, you can choose to move forward in a healthier way. Escaping a toxic mindset could cause some instability at first, but the pain should be replaced by relief.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Friendships may undergo big changes today. Someone who you thought was just a friend could reveal that they want something more from you. Whatever changes occur should be positive in the end, even if they aren’t easy in the moment. Admit what you want and claim it.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Nov. 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln dedicated a national cemetery at the battlefield of Gettysburg.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the

second manned landing on the moon.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time in Geneva.

In 1997, Iowa seamstress Bobbi McCaughey gave birth to the world’s first set of surviving septuplets.

In 2004, in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your job prospects may become much better at this time. A pleasant but tedious position could be replaced with one that requires a lot more creativity. Think broadly and see if you can anticipate people’s needs. Assert your vision for a dynamic way of living.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): People may need something from you today. Friends might really appreciate your comforting presence — someone may even ask for your advice about a deeply personal matter. Today you could urge them to break free and take a bold risk instead.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your domestic life might undergo a dramatic transformation today. You may relocate, add a member to your tribe, or even purchase your own place — whatever shifts occur could be very spiritually uplifting. Devote time to activities that make you feel centered and complete.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You can take your skills from novice to master. With your knowledge strengthened, work that might have once been bewildering could come easily to you, or a job that was out of your league may be well within your grasp. Your hard work deserves to be rewarded.

history, Ron Artest and Stephen Jackson of the Indiana Pacers charged into the stands and fought with Detroit Pistons fans.

In 2017, Charles Manson, the hippie cult leader behind the gruesome murders of actor Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles in 1969, died in a California hospital at the age of 83 after nearly a half-century in prison.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

		6				8		
				5		2		3
1			9					
9				4	2			
	8						6	
5			1	3				2
6					3			
7		8		1				9
		1				4		

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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

8	8	7	9	9	7	1	6	2
6	9	9	7	1	2	8	8	7
1	2	7	8	6	8	9	7	9
2	7	6	8	8	1	7	9	9
7	9	1	6	7	9	2	8	8
9	8	8	2	7	9	7	1	6
9	7	9	7	8	6	8	2	1
8	1	2	9	9	7	6	7	8
7	6	8	1	2	8	9	9	7

BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

D	A	I	O
A	B	N	D
L	G	A	I
O	C	H	O

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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FIVE COUNTRIES ENDING WITH "A" in the grid of letters.

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

TITANIC

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

Y	R	U	X	U	L	J	Q	W	S	R	O	L	I	A	S	T	
O	N	I	A	T	P	A	C	S	S	A	L	C	T	S	R	I	F
U	L	I	F	E	V	E	S	T	Y	E	N	G	I	N	E	S	T
A	R	J	E	E	R	Y	A	W	R	I	A	T	S	E	Q	B	L
T	E	R	G	S	A	S	O	S	U	L	S	E	R	A	L	F	Z
L	T	X	A	R	T	R	E	A	L	K	S	R	E	L	I	O	B
A	S	A	R	O	S	T	F	E	S	U	O	H	L	E	E	H	W
N	A	M	E	M	E	M	Y	L	A	N	G	I	S	T	B	J	S
T	M	E	E	S	T	A	O	B	E	F	I	L	R	Y	G	O	V
I	R	R	T	L	I	I	P	E	V	X	L	A	A	R	U	E	R
C	E	I	S	A	H	D	U	S	B	I	G	D	E	T	D	N	E
N	T	C	G	D	W	E	M	Q	N	E	Y	B	H	S	I	O	I
O	R	A	C	D	Z	N	P	E	D	A	E	A	M	E	S	H	L
O	A	U	A	E	R	V	R	Y	M	C	M	I	S	A	A	P	E
L	U	Z	B	R	E	O	O	P	I	P	D	F	Q	L	S	A	D
A	Q	P	I	H	S	Y	O	Z	T	B	R	A	T	X	T	G	N
S	S	I	N	K	C	A	M	O	C	E	A	N	V	A	E	E	A
I	P	O	R	T	U	G	N	J	E	W	E	L	S	I	R	M	H
K	C	O	L	D	E	E	K	D	R	A	O	B	R	A	T	S	C

AMERICA	FIRST CLASS	MAYDAY	SHIP
ATLANTIC	FLARES	MEGAPHONE	SIGNAL
BOILERS	GALLEY	MORSE	SINK
CABIN	ICEBERG	OCEAN	SOS
CAPTAIN	JEWELS	PORT	SOUTHAMPTON
CHANDELIER	LADDER	PUMP ROOM	STAIRWAY
COLD	LIFEBOATS	QUARTERMASTER	STARBOARD
DAVIT	LIFE VEST	RESCUE	STEERAGE
DISASTER	LINER	SAILORS	TRAGEDY
ENGINES	LUXURY	SALOON	WHEELHOUSE
FEAR	MAIDEN VOYAGE	SEA	WHITE STAR

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7		
	8					9			10	11
12						13				
14					15				16	
18				19				20		
		21	22				23			
		24				25				
26	27					28				
29					30	31			32	33
35				36				37		
	38		39				40			
	41						42			
			43				44			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/29/15

ACROSS

- Madigan and Brenneman
- Actress Larter
- "Hand Luke"; Paul Newman movie
- Disney's flying elephant
- Rather plump
- Poe and Bergen
- "Able was I ___ saw Elba"
- Marcia Cross' role on "Desperate Housewives"
- Suffix for cartoon or balloon
- "World ___ Z"; Brad Pitt film
- "___ Window"; Hitchcock classic
- "___ in Manhattan"; movie for Jennifer Lopez
- Flynn of "The Middle"
- Actress Claire
- "The ___ Guy"; Lee Majors series
- "___ Me No Flowers"; movie for Rock Hudson and Doris Day
- "Evening ___"
- ___ Oka of "Hawaii Five-0"
- Hanks and Cruise
- Disgusting scum
- Sense of self-esteem

	A	M	Y	S			A	L	I				
	C	O	O	L			D	U	M	B	O		
	P	U	D	G	Y		E	D	G	A	R	S	
	E	R	E	I		B	R	E	E		I	S	T
W	A	R		R	E	A	R		M	A	I	D	
		N	E	I	L			D	A	N	E	S	
		F	A	L	L		S	E	N	D			
S	H	A	D	E			M	A	S	I			
T	O	M	S		C	R	U	D		E	G	O	
U	N	I		O	R	E	G		S	T	I	R	
	O	L	D	M	E	N		M	A	Z	A	R	
	R	Y		A	N	S		A	M	E	N		
		N	I	T					D	E	N	T	

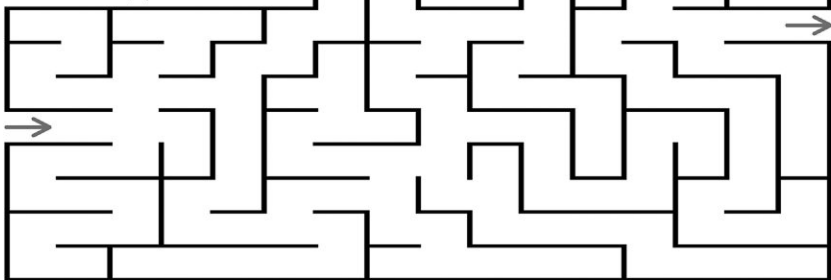
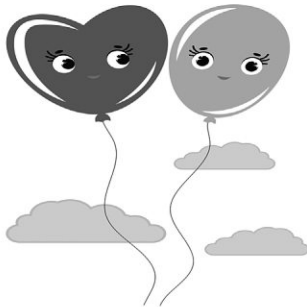
4/5/15

- Prefix for cycle or form
- Neighbor of Calif.
- "___ of Echoes"; Kevin Bacon film
- "No Country for ___"; movie for Tommy Lee Jones
- Actress Debi ___
- "___ Hope"; soap opera of past decades
- Sherman Hemsley sitcom
- Word with wit or pick
- Fender-bender memento

DOWN

- Legend maker
- Ed O'Neill sitcom
- Cartoon bear
- Stallone, to friends
- Deadly snake
- Racing sled
- "___ Big Girl Now"
- Actor on "NCIS"
- Actor ___ Davis
- Church seat
- Historical period
- Catherine ___ of "JAG"
- Six-pointers, for short
- Make angry
- "Le ___"; Steve McQueen movie
- Actor on "CSI"
- "___ Man Walking"; film for Sean Penn
- Too self-satisfied
- "The ___ Erwin Show" of early TV
- "Men of ___"; movie for Cuba Gooding, Jr.
- "Falcon ___"
- Cartoon chihuahua
- Elizabeth Taylor/Rock Hudson classic
- Hockey great Bobby ___
- Atlanta's old coliseum
- Identical
- Rather or Aykroyd
- "___ About You"

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MIPLE
□ □ □ □ □
ALKIE
□ □ □ □ □
GUCTAH
□ □ □ □ □
TINYTE
□ □ □ □ □

Print your answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Jumbles: IMPEL ALIKE CAUGHT ENTITY
Answer: After hunting all night, the wolves decided to — PACK IT IN

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

Sourpuss	Have a hunch	Bankroll	Roller coaster feature	Billy Joel's instrument	Tin star wearers	Put on ice	Historic time
Final							
At liberty	Taboo			Novelists	Children's card game		
Hiked	Legal aides	Sad			CEO's degree	Mushy foods	
		Pairs					Fritter away
Drive-in server	Breezed through	Quiet	Trapper's prize	Move forward	From the top Purpose		
Lead to			Recipe amount			Greek letter	Parking place
		Lie in wait		Art stands			
Minus	Billboard listing		Upper house			Youngster	

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8/11/19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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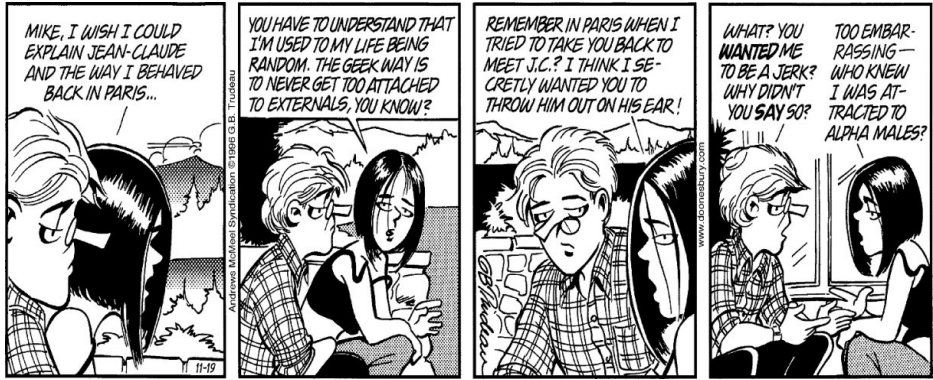


The right answer

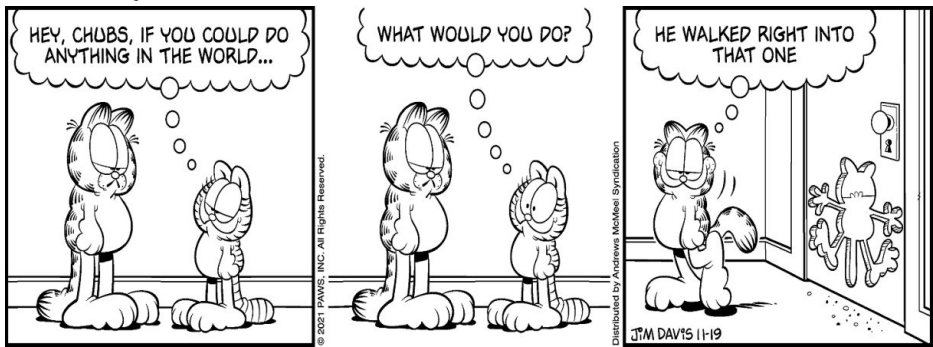
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



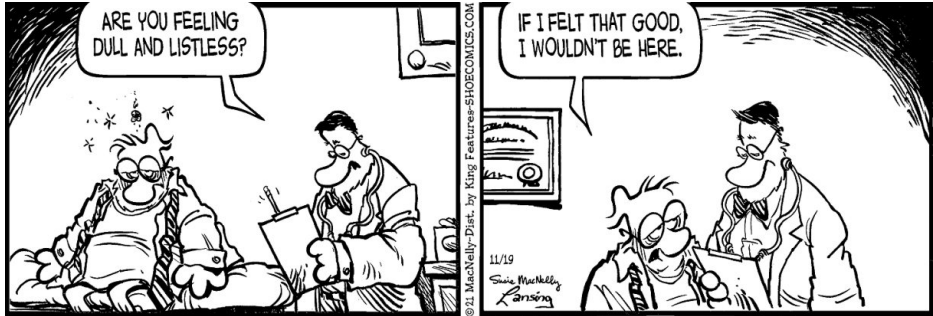
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



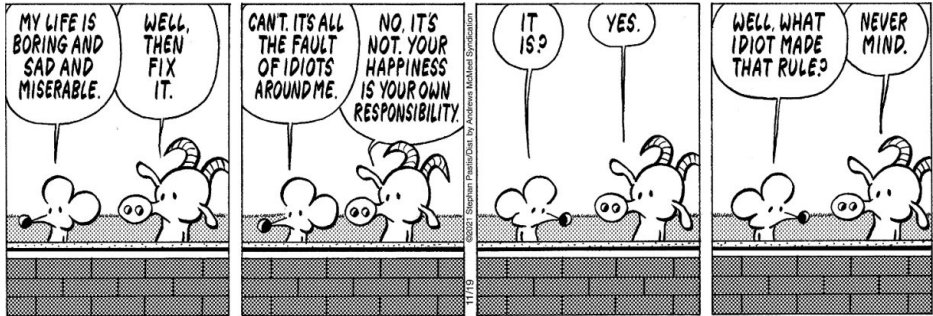
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



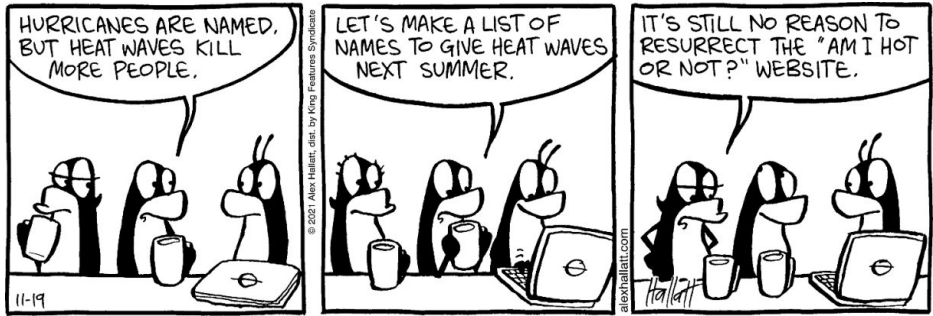
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



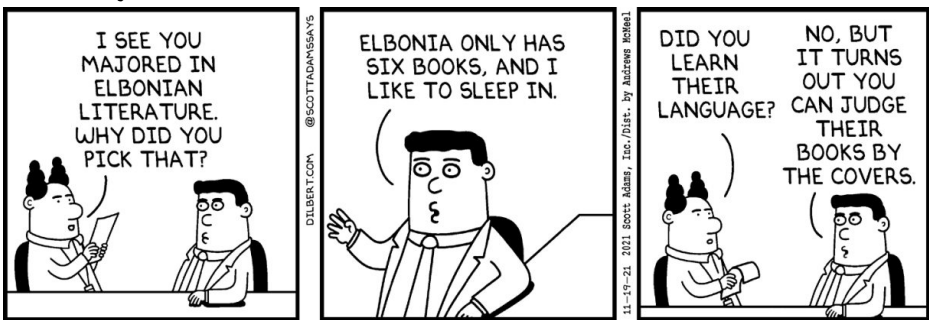
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



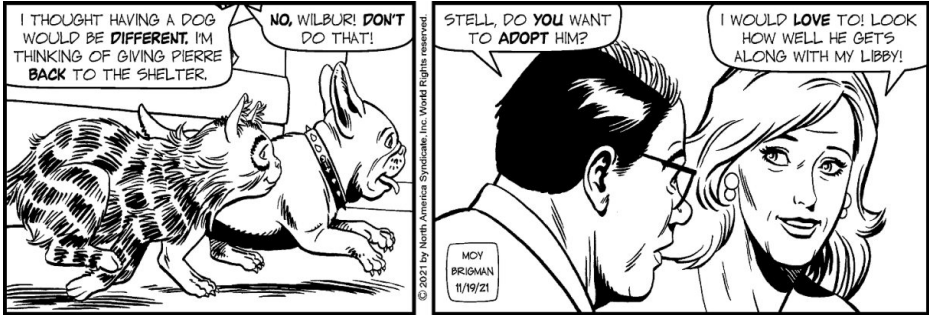
Dilbert By Scott Adams



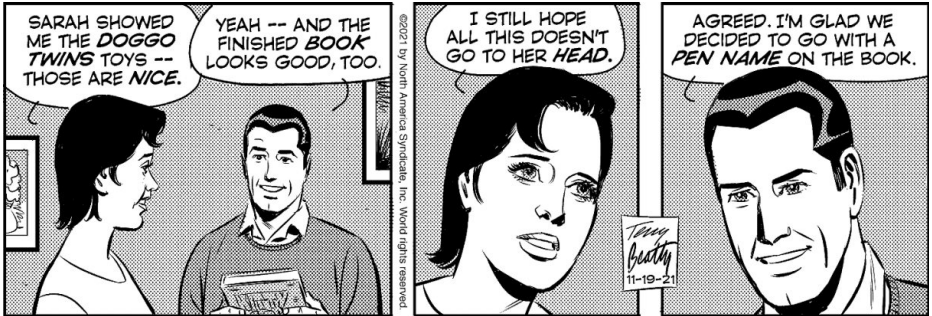
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



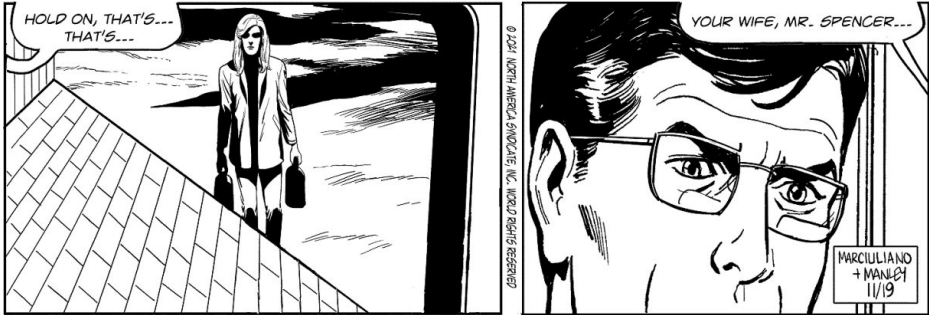
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



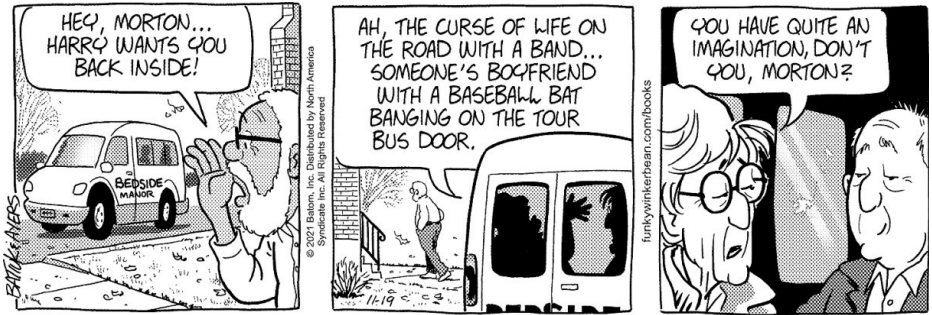
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



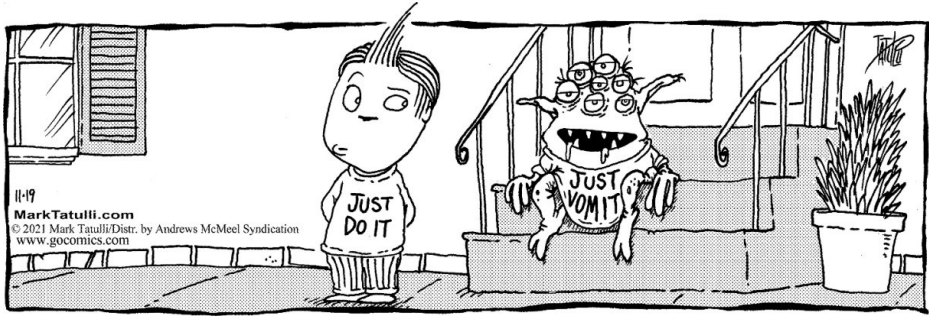
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



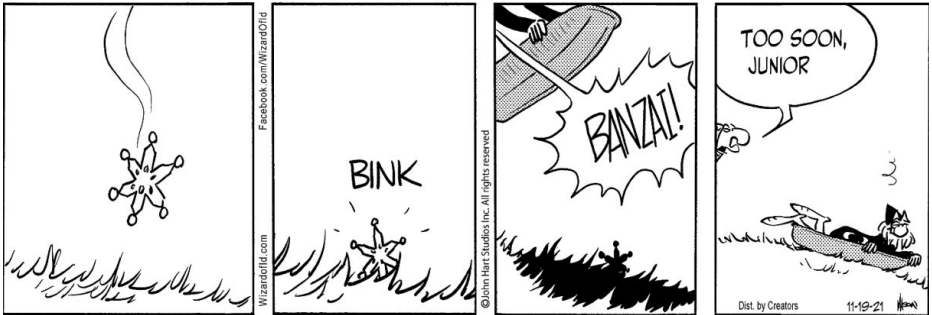
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



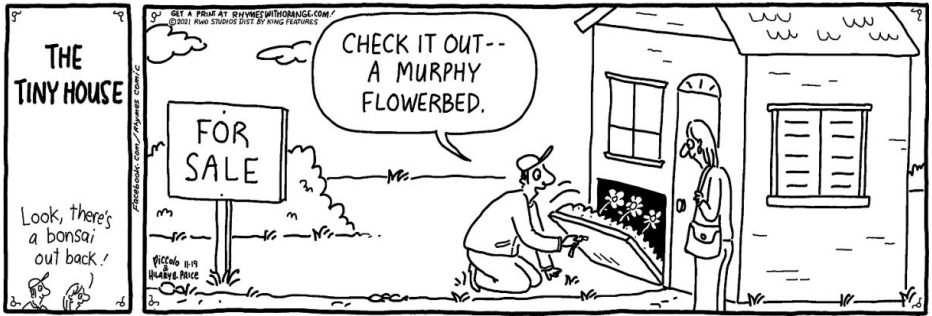
Lio By Mark Tatulli



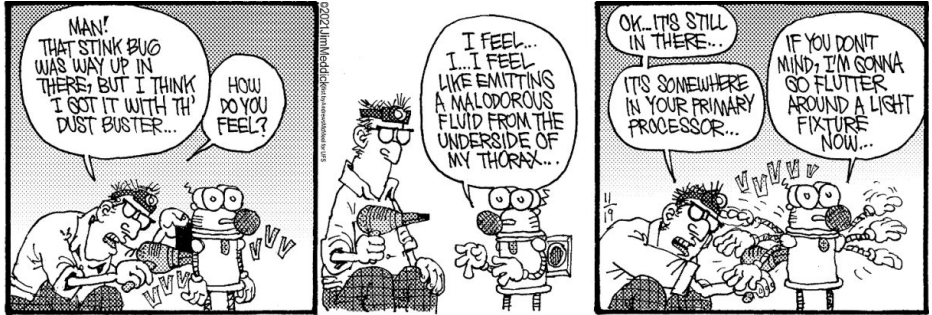
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



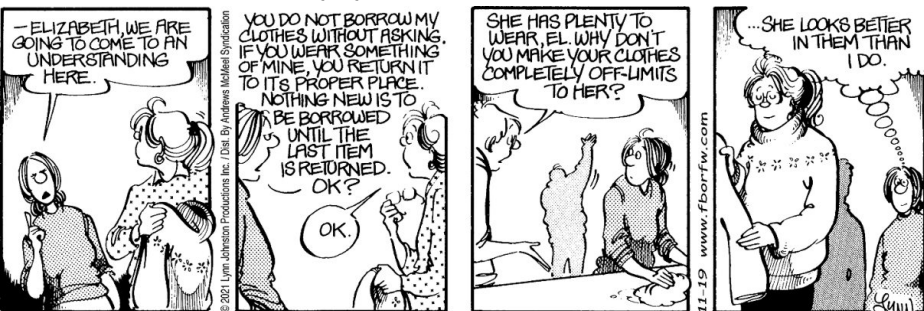
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



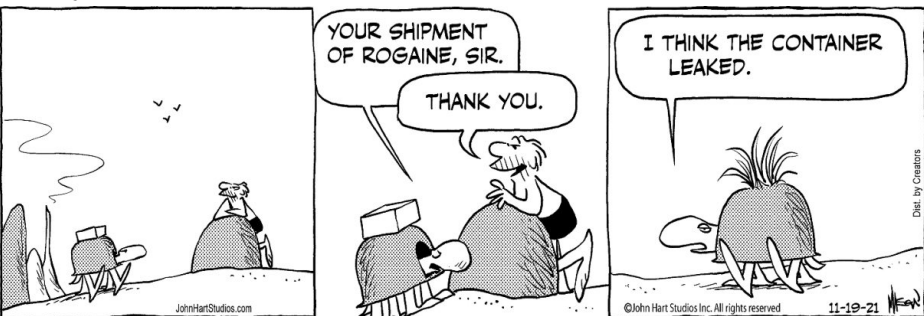
Monty By Jim Meddick



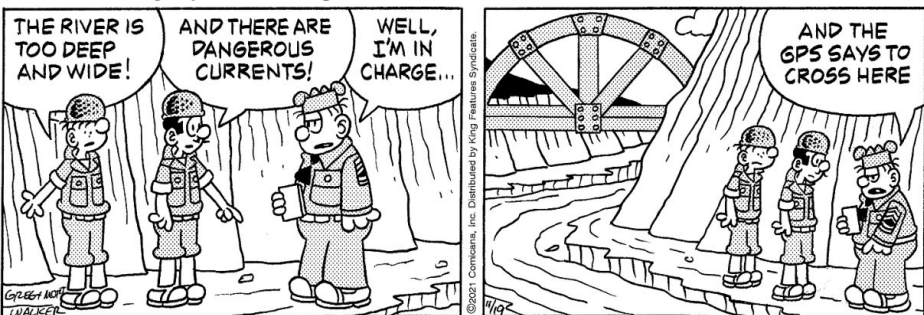
For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



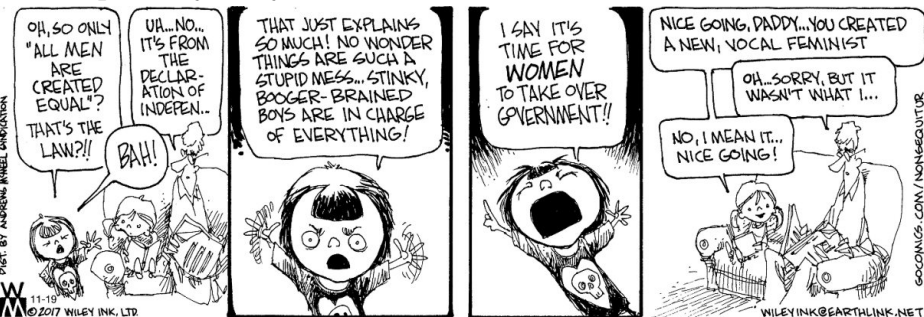
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



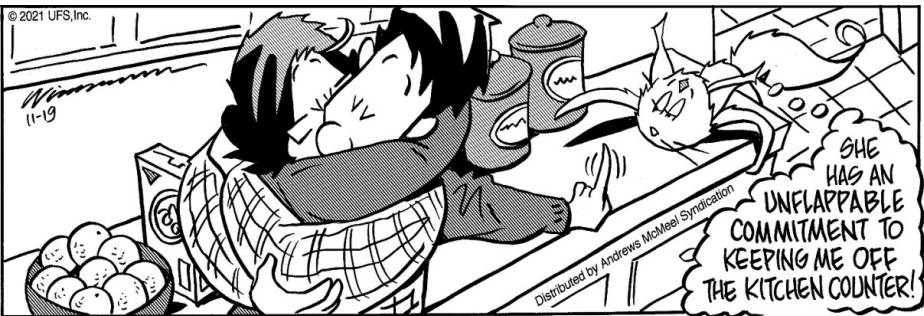
Pickles By Brian Crane



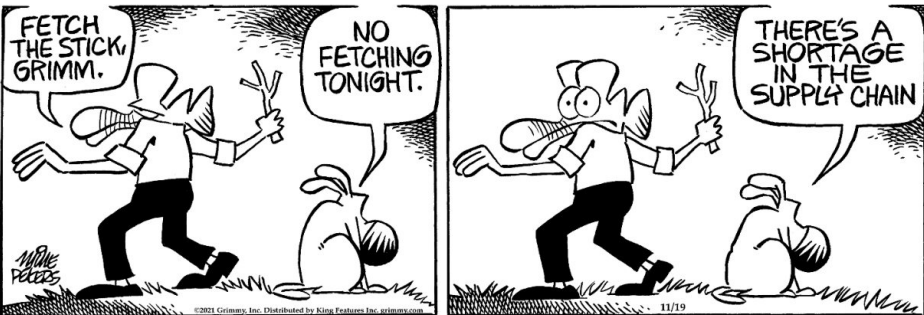
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

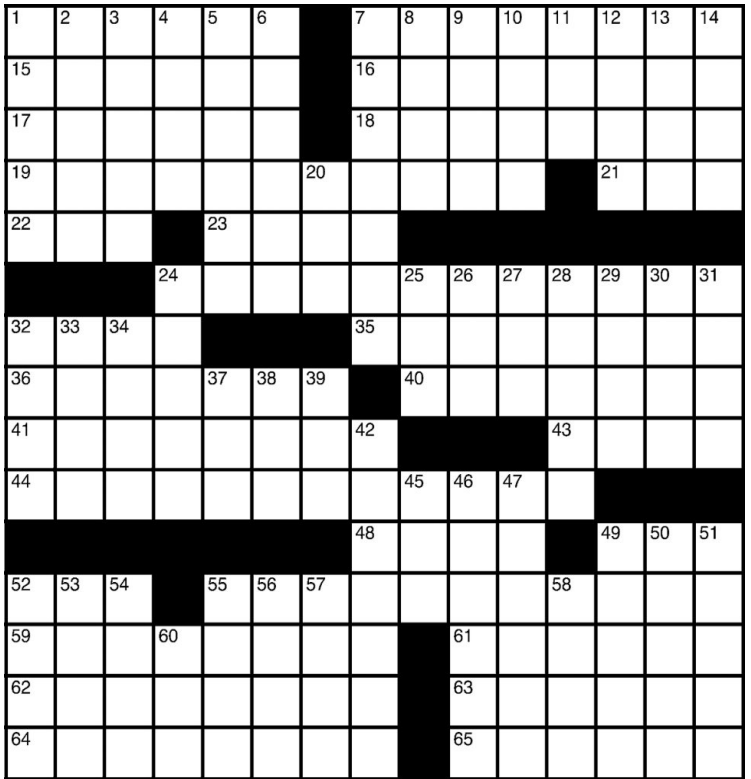
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 Takes over
- 7 Set
- 15 Mendeleev's homeland
- 16 Nobel Prize presentation, say
- 17 Fix
- 18 Vader's choice
- 19 Like one hiding contraband on his person?
- 21 "Dropped" drug
- 22 Texas __; oil
- 23 Notable times
- 24 First-time hot-dog grill?
- 32 Aqua relative
- 35 Flutes, for example
- 36 Notepad option
- 40 Gridiron maneuver
- 41 Like some allergy sufferers
- 43 __ Stone, co-star of the "Jacques Brel" musicals
- 44 Like designers of Halloween costumes?
- 48 Scout in "To Kill a Mockingbird," e.g.
- 49 Peninsular U.S. st.
- 52 Org. with briefs
- 55 Campus anti-hazing policy, basically?
- 59 Lab neatener
- 61 Face
- 62 Ninth-century pope

- 20 Ute relative
- 24 It often includes trysts
- 25 Falcons' home: Abbr.
- 26 "Give __ break!"
- 27 Qty.
- 28 Wool fabric
- 29 "Downton Abbey" title
- 30 Long border range
- 31 Bank (on)
- 32 Gang land
- 33 Dept. formed under Carter
- 34 German family-owned discount market
- 37 Kabuki relative
- 38 Nov. NJ setting
- 39 Rep. foe
- 42 "Oh, man, check it out!"

- 45 Actor Cage, casually
- 46 Large numbers
- 47 Climate-disrupting phenomenon
- 49 Home-building stage
- 50 Colonel Sanders' head, and its ilk
- 51 Watchful
- 52 Driver with lines
- 53 "This was my dream. What it doth __, God knows": "Henry VI, Part 2"
- 54 India tourist city
- 55 Writer Lebowitz
- 56 Early writing symbol
- 57 Sale condition
- 58 Past 15-Across leader
- 60 Receptacle



By Jeffrey Wechsler

Tribune Content Agency 11/19/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Bidding quiz

Assume you're East and that South opens Four Spades, which everyone passes.

- NORTH
- [S] --
- [H] A 10
- [D] K Q J 10 8 5
- [C] 9 8 7 6 3
- EAST
- [S] Q 5 3
- [H] J 6 4 2
- [D] A 9 6 4
- [C] A 5

Partner leads the king of clubs. You overtake with the ace and return the five to West's ten, declarer following low. Your partner then leads the queen of clubs, ruffed by declarer as you discard a diamond. South now plays the A-K of spades, West following low to both, and next leads the jack of spades, on which West discards the diamond deuce. After you win with the queen, your side's third trick, what would you return? (Assume your partner is a first-rate defender.)

It is known that declarer started with exactly eight spades and two clubs, so your only problem is to contend with the possible distribution of South's three red cards. You dismiss the possibility that South has the K-Q-x of hearts, because the contract cannot be defeated in that case. You also ignore those cases where South has two hearts and a diamond or two diamonds and a heart (or even all three diamonds), because the contract will fail whether you cash the ace of diamonds at this point or return a heart instead.

The only case that matters, therefore, is when declarer has three hearts (not including the K-Q) and no diamonds, so all your thoughts should be focused on this one possibility. A diamond return in that case would hand declarer the contract, so

you should conclude that a heart return is the only correct play.

But which heart should you lead? It would be fatal if you led a low one and it turned out that South had the K-9-x. After playing low from his hand, he would take your partner's queen with the ace and then finesse against your jack, thus obliterating your side's potential heart trick. It would also prove fatal to lead a low heart if South had Q-9-x and played low from his hand.

The only play that caters to all cases where the contract can be defeated is to lead the jack of hearts! This succeeds whenever your partner has the Q-x-x-x of hearts and also when he has the K-x-x-x and does not cover when South plays the queen on your jack. It would not be difficult for him to duck the queen because, as we said at the start, he is a very good player. He knows almost as much about declarer's hand as you do, and he can therefore be expected to do the right thing.

Tomorrow: The two-way guess.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUMDO

FRIDT

GTUTAH

CULNMO

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Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

WHAT WALLACE AND SPUD WERE DOING ON THE BOAT

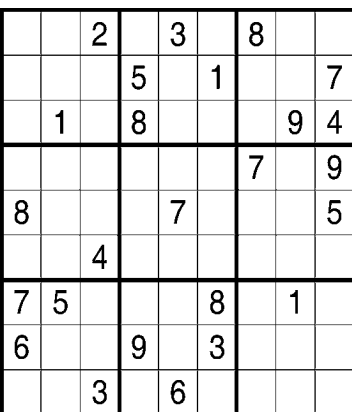
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TAKEN LINER COMEDY BOBBLE

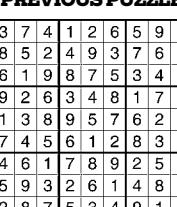
Answer: This dog prefers a good nap instead of adventure. He was — BORN TO BE "MILD"

TODAY'S SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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SPORTS

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Tyrese Martin's inspired play helped UConn make short work of Long Island University on Wednesday in Storrs. **PAUL CONNORS/AP**

MEN'S BASKETBALL UCONN

Martin's a real source of energy

Senior's willingness to do dirty work inspires Huskies vs. Long Island

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

Tyrese Martin's energy on the court was infectious Wednesday night at Gampel Pavilion. His play not only inspired his UConn men's basketball teammates but led to many crowd roars throughout the game. The senior guard's play also helped lift the

Huskies to a 93-40 victory over LIU. In a game in which Andre Jackson and Tyler Polley had breakout performances, it was Martin who did all the dirty work. When UConn missed a shot, Martin would come barreling in between LIU defenders to secure the rebound. When the ball was on the verge of going out of bounds, Martin would dive across the floor to secure it. On the offensive end, he played with patience and poise as he finished 4-for-4 from the field with

10 points. UConn head coach Dan Hurley loved the tone Martin set for the rest of the team. Hurley built this team's identity on defense, so seeing Martin play like this had his coach beaming with pride. "Tyrese played one of the more mature games to see a guy playing," Hurley said. "Tyrese went 4-for-4 from the field and knew he had the matchup with [Tyron] Flowers, who was preseason player of the year in the [Northeast Conference]. "He knew he was going to expend a lot of energy on the defen-

sive end, so he gave up a little bit of his offense and played really, really smart. He did a little bit of everything." Martin was tasked with guarding Flowers, who came into the game averaging 17.5 points on 42% shooting. Martin limited Flowers to just four points on 2-for-9 shooting. Flowers finished with six turnovers and seemed flustered by Martin's defense throughout the game. Martin finished with 10 points, seven rebounds (three offensive),

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Canton boys soccer heads back to

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

NEW BRITAIN — The Canton High boys soccer team had a dozen seniors last year, but there were no fall state championships due to the pandemic, so they had no chance to prove how good they were. "We decided we were just going to make sure we were as good this year as we were last year," Canton coach Bill Phelps said. Thursday night in the Class S semifinal game, No. 8 seeded Canton got its chance, holding off No. 4 Griswold 1-0 in a game that came down to penalty kicks (4-2) at Veterans Stadium. Canton will play Old Saybrook, a 5-3 winner over Somers in the other semifinal, in the Class S championship game Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at Dillon Stadium in Hartford. It's Canton's first trip to the state championship game since 2003. Griswold finished 16-4-1. Sophomore goalkeeper Jack Biskupiak made two saves on penalty kicks and after the last one, he sprinted back to midfield and was engulfed by his teammates. He made 10 saves in regulation and two overtimes for Canton (16-4). It was Biskupiak's first time going up against penalty kicks in a game. "There was a whole lot of pressure," Biskupiak said. "After the

Turn to Soccer, Page 2



Canton's Sammy Lincoln pushes down field against Griswold's Noah Urena on Thursday. **GERRY DESIMAS JR./COLLINSVILLEPRESS.COM**



Hartford's Hunter Marks goes up for a basket Thursday as Boston's Sukhmail Mathon defends. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO HARTFORD COURANT**

MEN'S BASKETBALL BOSTON UNIVERSITY 75, HARTFORD 70

A supporting cast

Team finds 'The Neighborhood' still has its back

WEST HARTFORD — The men's lacrosse players at UHart don't know what kind of season, if any, they will have. There's a lot of that going around campus this fall. A casualty of the school's proposed move to Division III, they had to withdraw from America East.



Dom Amore

But the players who remain have clung to school spirit. With the men's basketball team's long-awaited season opener coming up, they set up tables around campus, gave out prizes, T-shirts that read "This is Our Neighbor-

hood," and recruited students to come out and see last year's conference title and NCAA appearance celebrated Thursday night. "It was tremendous just seeing the banner up there," coach John Gallagher said. "I think the building exhaled, so it was a great moment." The nearly full student section amid the crowd of 1,200 was evidence the lacrosse players picked up some of the slack from the school's, let's call it a

less-than-aggressive approach to marketing and selling tickets for this post-championship season. It's a campus and college community that's not willing to be led quietly where they don't want to go. And the Hawks, though they lost their home opener to Boston University, 75-70, Thursday, came from 18 points back to get as close as two in the final minutes, showing plenty of fight remained in them

Turn to Amore, Page 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

WNBA changes playoffs to bracket format

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press

The WNBA is changing its playoff format to a more traditional bracket. The league announced Thursday that the postseason will consist of three rounds — best-of-three games for the first round and best-of-five games for subse-

quent ones — beginning in 2022. The top eight teams overall will make the playoffs. "We have been evaluating different playoff formats over the past 12 months, and the new playoff format being announced today will enable fans to engage with all of the league's best teams and top stars right from the start of the postseason with all eight cham-

pionship contenders immediately involved in exciting, first-round action," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said in a statement. The league adopted a playoff structure in 2016 that had single-elimination games in the opening two rounds and gave byes to the semifinals for the top two teams. While the league will

lose a round of the playoffs under the new format, going from four to three, it will gain more games using a series structure. "Following significant discussions with our Competition Committee and a Playoff subcommittee we formed last year, it was clear that while the prior format's

Turn to WNBA, Page 4

Safety Tip of the Day

This Thanksgiving, use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature and always refrigerate food within two hours.

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UP NEXT

UConn football: at Central Florida, Saturday, 4 p.m.

Patriots: Titans, Nov. 28, 1 p.m.

Giants: at Buccaneers, Monday, 8:15 p.m.

Jets: Dolphins, Sunday, 1 p.m.

UConn MBB: Binghamton (XL Center), Saturday, noon; vs. Auburn (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.; vs. TBA (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Thursday, time TBA

UConn WBB: vs. Minnesota (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Saturday, noon; vs. TBA (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Sunday, time TBA; vs. TBA (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Monday, time TBA

Celtics: Lakers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Thunder, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Rockets, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Knicks: Rockets, Saturday, 5 p.m.; at Bulls, Sunday, 8 p.m.; Lakers, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Nets: Magic, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; at Cavaliers, Monday, 7 p.m.; at Celtics, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

UConn hockey: at UMass Lowell, Saturday, 3:30 p.m.; UMass Lowell, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; Colgate, Nov. 27, 4 p.m.

Bruins: at Flyers, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Flames, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Sabres, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Rangers: Sabres, Sunday, 6 p.m.; at Islanders, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Bruins, Nov. 26, 1 p.m.

Wolf Pack: at Providence, Friday, 7 p.m.; Hershey, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Springfield, Nov. 26, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
8:55 a.m.: Formula 1 Racing Qatar Grand Prix, Practice 2. (Same-day Tape) ESPN2
5:55 a.m.: Formula 1 Racing Qatar Grand Prix, Practice 3. (Live) ESPN2

BASKETBALL
12 p.m.: Myrtle Beach Invitational, Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPN2
12 p.m.: Charleston Classic: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPNU
2:30 p.m.: Charleston Classic, Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPN2
2:30 p.m.: Myrtle Beach Invitational: Teams TBA. (Same-day Tape) ESPNU
3 p.m.: Massachusetts at UNC-Greensboro. (Live) CBSSN
5 p.m.: Myrtle Beach Invitational, Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPN2
5 p.m.: Liberty at Iona. (Live) ESPNU
5:30 p.m.: Weber State at Ball State. (Live) CBSSN
6 p.m.: Towson at Pittsburgh. (Live) ACC
6:30 p.m.: Hofstra at Maryland. (Live) FS1
7 p.m.: Ohio at Kentucky. (Live) SEC
7 p.m.: Charleston Classic, Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPN2
7:30 p.m.: Los Angeles Lakers at Boston Celtics. (Live) SPRTNET ESPN
8 p.m.: Lafayette at Duke. (Live) ACC
9 p.m.: Georgia Tech at Georgia. (Live) SEC
10 p.m.: Toronto Raptors at Sacramento Kings. (Live) SPRTNET
10 p.m.: Wichita State at Arizona. (Live) ESPNU
10:05 p.m.: Dallas Mavericks at Phoenix Suns. (Live) ESPN
12:30 a.m.: Michigan at UNLV. (Live) ESPN2
2:30 a.m.: Los Angeles Lakers at Boston Celtics. (Same-day Tape) ESPN2

FOOTBALL
8 p.m.: Southern Mississippi at Louisiana Tech. (Live) CBSSN
9 p.m.: Memphis at Houston. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: Air Force at Nevada. (Same-day Tape) FS1
11:30 p.m.: San Diego State at UNLV. (Live) CBSSN
12 a.m.: Louisville at Duke. (Taped) ACC

GOLF
12 p.m.: RSM Classic, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
3 p.m.: CME Group Tour Championship, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
2 a.m.: DP World Tour Championship, Third Round. (Live) GOLF

HOCKEY
12 p.m.: Tampa Bay Lightning at Philadelphia Flyers. (Taped) NHL
2 p.m.: New York Rangers at Toronto Maple Leafs. (Taped) NHL
3 p.m.: Pittsburgh Penguins



Coach Colleen Budaj, right, and the Wethersfield High School field hockey team will look for a state championship Saturday. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

HIGH SCHOOL FIELD HOCKEY

Long road back for Wethersfield

Eagles fly into their 1st state title game since 1980

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

WETHERSFIELD - — On every high school field hockey state championship day since 2005, the Wethersfield players have worked the concession stand, dishing out chili and soup and pouring hot chocolate and watching players from all over the state play on their field at Wethersfield High.

Things have changed. On Tuesday night, Wethersfield went to an overtime shootout with Joel Barlow in the Class M semifinal and won, 2-1. The Eagles finally get to play on their home turf and will face Guilford for the Class M championship on Saturday at 10 a.m..

Previously Wethersfield had only made it to the state tournament twice between 1994 and 2016 and each time, promptly lost in the first round. The two seasons before coach Colleen Budaj took over, the Eagles scored only one goal and did not win a game. In her first season, 2014, they finally won one game.

Somebody else will have to dish up the chili, at least for the first of three finals. “I don’t know who will,”

senior captain Logan Liselle said. “Hopefully we’ll find someone to cover us.”

The Eagles (18-1) will be busy with two-time defending champion and top-seeded Guilford (21-1). “It’s been an amazing ride,” Budaj said. “Each year, it’s been one step closer, one step closer.”

After Budaj took over, Liselle’s mother Blake started a field hockey feeder program in town. Now instead of having kids who didn’t touch a stick until their freshman year, Budaj was getting kids who knew the game.

Wethersfield last won a state title in 1980 but had plenty of lean years after that. The Eagles qualified for the state tournament in 2017 for the first time in eight years. Before that, they hadn’t qualified since 1994. In 2018, the Eagles had their first winning record (9-7) since 1990.

In 2019, the last time fall state championships were held, Wethersfield won its first tournament game in 34 years, beating Barlow 1-0. The Eagles lost in the next game, the quarterfinals, 1-0 to Hand.

Tuesday night, Wethersfield was trailing 1-0 in the third quarter when sophomore Sadie Ruiz scored for the Eagles to tie it.

“It kind of felt like a blur,” Ruiz said. “It was really exciting and kind of stress-

ful.”

Wethersfield used two goalkeepers. Sophomore Tess Parker came in for overtime periods, which ended without scoring, then the shootout. She and starting goalkeeper Julia Peacock combined for 19 saves.

“[Barlow] dominated for most of the overtime,” Parker said. “I think our team was tired. Our defense was doing amazing, but there were a lot of shots. Everybody was trying to keep the ball out of the circle.

“When I looked up at the clock and saw [overtime] was about to end, I was like, ‘OK, here we go.’ I was honestly more nervous for the overtimes than the shootout. I was like, ‘You know what, I’m just going to do the best I can.’”

She saved all four shots. Ruiz and Sophia Nower scored for Wethersfield.

“We all worked so hard for this,” Ruiz said. “I’m really happy we get to play here Saturday.”

Budaj said parents and others will step up for the concession stand duty during the game.

“We jokingly told [athletic director Mike] Maltese we weren’t coming to do concessions if we lost,” she said. “We said, ‘You’ve got to make the chili, Mike.’”

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

JETS, GIANTS

Video shows Stacy attacking ex-girlfriend

New York Daily News

Zac Stacy, a former Jets running back, violently assaulted his ex-girlfriend Saturday, punching her in the head and then throwing her against a television and their son’s chair.

The woman said Stacy was visiting her and their 5-month-old son, who can be seen in the video. The extremely graphic video was published by TMZ on Wednesday night.

Stacy left Florida after cops were called and is now on the run, Oakland, Fla., police say.

In a video published Thursday, the woman said “I don’t know why his friends are hiding him.”

Stacy’s ex-girlfriend filed for a restraining order against him Monday, citing the attack, according to TMZ.

“He punched me several times in the head! I begged him to stop because the baby was on the couch just a few feet from where he punched me,” she wrote, describing the events seen in the video.

The woman apparently avoided any major injuries from the attack.

The 30-year-old Stacy played in the NFL for three seasons. He was drafted out of Vanderbilt by the Rams in 2013, playing two years in St. Louis before getting traded to New York. His eight games with the Jets in 2015 were his last in the league.

Current and former NFL players responded to the video Thursday. Retired defensive end Chris Long, who played with Stacy on the Rams, said the video “Made my stomach turn.... Crazy to

play w someone for a couple years & you have no idea what kind of bulls—t they do at home.”

Packers receiver Davante Adams wrote that “ZAC STACY NEED TO BE THROWN UNDER THE JAIL. Any man that puts his hands on a woman is a coward. Can’t believe what I just saw.”

Thomas back for Giants: The most important player on the Giants offense strolled onto the practice field in uniform Wednesday morning, his first action since Oct. 17.

“If I can play, I think I can definitely help the team a lot,” left tackle Andrew Thomas said later.

The problem is Thomas hasn’t played.

He’s missed 4 ½ of the Giants’ last five games due to left ankle and right foot injuries. He’s not expected to play Monday night at Tampa either.

And the Giants (3-6) have little chance at a second-half turnaround if Thomas doesn’t come back healthy.

Wednesday’s return to practice was a step in the right direction. The Giants designated him for return from injured reserve, opening a three-week window to add Thomas to the active roster.

But it was only a baby step, a quick walk-through. Coach Joe Judge said Thomas would be on the field “at least starting practice with us,” implying low expectations for an immediate return.

“He played really well for us before he had that injury,” quarterback Daniel Jones said Wednesday.

“He’s a great player and he’s working hard to get back.”

Thomas, 22, is critically important because of what he allows offensive coordinator Jason Garrett to call.

Left tackle Matt Peart and right tackle Nate Solder have worked hard. But without Thomas, the Giants have had to scheme creatively around their inability to consistently protect the quarterback.

They’ve moved Jones’ pocket with rollouts (especially against Carolina), gone run heavy, and added unorthodox calls and formations like the college option, the Wildcat, the pistol, and the Wishbone.

“It’s kind of like a sweet-sour type of feeling,” Thomas said of not being able to protect Jones’ blind-side recently. “I’m excited for my teammates watching them play. They put a lot of work in and are playing well. At the same time, I want to be out there helping my teammates win.”

Judge’s team has won two of the last three anyway. Still, it’s unsustainable to live on the edge with a miniscule margin of error when relying on a conservative, low-scoring approach. “That has a lot to do with the defense you’re playing and how they’re playing you and what you’re doing well as an offense,” Jones said of the Giants’ patient offensive approach. “Understanding that and factoring that into your decision making and what you’re trying to do with the ball on certain plays, that’s a big part of playing the game and playing the position.”

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES TO WATCH

Conard-Hall series dates back to 1957

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

We’re coming into the homestretch of the football season. Next week is Thanksgiving, but there are some good games this week-end.

Conard and Hall will face off in a cross-town rivalry game Saturday that dates back to 1957. Conard leads the series with a record of 35-25-3, but Hall has won six of the last 10 games between the two West Hartford teams.

Manchester won its first game last week and will try to keep the momentum going against East Hartford for its last game, and Morgan and its senior quarterback Andrew Nye, who has passed for 35 touchdowns this season, will visit Ellington.

Here are the key football matchups to watch this week.



Hall quarterback Eli Salomons hands off to Leo Perreira during a game against Southington Oct. 1. Hall will face Conard in a cross-town rivalry game Saturday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Conard senior quarterback Israel Lopez had three touchdown passes and 215 yards passing and now has 2,437 career passing yards. Hall was cruising through the season until a 49-18 loss to Maloney on Nov. 5 halted the Warriors’ momentum. They are still ranked fourth in the Class LL point rankings behind Darien, Fairfield Prep and New Canaan. Hall quarterback Eli Salomons has passed for 1,615 yards and 16 touchdowns, and Leo Perreira just topped 1,000 rushing yards and has 17 touchdowns.

Conard at Hall: Conard (4-5) will play at Hall (8-1) on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in a CCC Tier 1 game. Conard had a big win last week, rallying to beat Southington 31-24. It was Conard’s first victory over Southington since 2011.

Stafford/East Windsor/Somers vs. Cromwell/Portland: Stafford (5-3) will travel to Pierson Park in Cromwell on Friday at 6 p.m. to face Cromwell (8-0). The Panthers are one of two undefeated teams in Class S (the other is Bloomfield at 9-0), and no one has come close to them this season. Last week, they beat Coginchau/Hale-Ray/East Hampton 49-6. Stafford bounced back from a loss to Ellington on Oct. 22 to defeat Valley Regional/Old Lyme 34-21. The Bulldogs took down Rockville last week 48-7, breaking the Rams’ six-game win streak.

Manchester at East Hartford: Manchester beat Enfield 44-43 last week, and the Red Hawks will travel to East Hartford (4-5) Friday at 6:30 p.m. for their final game of the season in a CCC interdivisional matchup. Manchester senior quarterback Adrian Parker has

Morgan at Ellington: Morgan (7-1) travels to Ellington (6-2) on Friday at 6:30 p.m. The Purple Knights bounced back from a 14-0 loss to Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic to beat OSW 42-6 last week. Morgan hasn’t lost since opening day to Cromwell and is coming off a 46-6 win over North Branford last week. Nye, the senior quarterback, leads the state in passing yards (2,429). Garret Garbinski is his favorite receiver (853 yards, 12 touchdowns) with teammate Alex Fratamico not far behind (787 yards, 12 touchdowns).

Simsbury at Bloomfield: Bloomfield (9-0) hosts Simsbury (5-4) on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the last regular-season game before the playoffs start. Bloomfield, the top-ranked team in Class S, beat South Windsor 48-0 last week, while Simsbury had a 17-14 win over East Hartford after losing 49-14 to Southington the week earlier. Running backs Conellius Patrick (1,112 yards, 14 touchdowns) and Dallas Rose (1,102, 18 touchdowns) lead the way for the Warhawks, and sophomore quarterback Darrien Foster has 1,160 yards passing and 17 touchdowns.

NEPSAC Bowl Games: There are also some local New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) bowl games on the schedule Saturday: Avon Old Farms (6-2) will host BB&N (7-1) in the Kevin Driscoll Bowl Saturday at 1 p.m., Loomis Chaffee (8-1) will host Milton Academy (8-0) in the Todd Marble Bowl Saturday at 1 p.m. and Choate (6-2) will travel to Lawrence Academy (6-2) in Groton, Massachusetts on Saturday at 1 p.m. for the Dave Coratti Bowl.

Soccer

from Page 1

first half, my heart was racing but I was like, ‘We got this. I trust my team so much. I know they can pull through all this.’”

Biskupiak is one of two Canton goalkeepers that Phelps used during the season.

“He has come a long, long way and for a sophomore to be that poised, I can’t say enough about him,” Phelps said. “I have two excellent goalies I flip flop all the time. But for the last few games, he’s been on, so I just left him in there. The other one off the bench is just as good and they’re both sophomores.”

Griswold put a lot of pressure on Canton’s defense throughout the game but the Wolverines couldn’t quite crack it. Canton didn’t play its best game, Phelps said.

“We’ll save that for the finals, I guess,” he said.

When it came down to penalty kicks, Canton’s Devin Brown scored first. Griswold’s Benjamin Jeffs scored on Biskupiak. Miles Deuilis had Canton’s second penalty kick goal. Biskupiak made the save on Justyn Blanchard’s penalty kick and Ryan Weller put Canton up 3-1. Aiden Christie got the ball past Biskupiak to make it 3-2 but Mark Freedenberg gave Canton a 4-2 lead and

Biskupiak made the last save.

Phelps has been the coach for 38 years and in that time Canton has made it to the finals twice (1995, 2003) and won both times.

“We got knocked out on PKs four years ago in the semifinals,” he said. “My kids had the PKs down.”

Old Saybrook 5, Somers 3 (OT): Senior Cam D’Angelo scored on a penalty kick with two seconds left in regulation to tie the score and scored again 2:04 into the first overtime to rally Old Saybrook from a second-half two-goal deficit to win the Class S semifinal.

Old Saybrook won the Class S championship in 2018 and 2019.

Somers went up 2-0 on two goals from Tom Lafayette in the second half and Old Saybrook countered with a goal by D’Angelo. Patrick Brown made it 3-1 Somers with 14:05 left in the half.

But Old Saybrook rallied with a goal with 5:54 left, then with two seconds left, D’Angelo scored on a penalty kick to tie the game at 3-3.

Old Saybrook had the momentum and D’Angelo scored again to put the Rams up. Nick Rothman added the fifth goal 59 seconds into the second overtime.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	11	5	.688	—
New York	8	7	.533	2½
Philadelphia	8	7	.533	2½
Toronto	7	8	.467	3½
Boston	7	8	.467	3½
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	11	5	.688	—
Washington	10	5	.667	½
Charlotte	9	7	.563	2
Atlanta	7	9	.438	4
Orlando	4	11	.267	6½
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	10	5	.667	—
Cleveland	9	8	.529	2
Milwaukee	7	8	.467	3
Indiana	6	10	.375	4½
Detroit	4	10	.286	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	9	5	.643	—
Memphis	7	7	.500	2
San Antonio	4	10	.286	5
New Orleans	2	14	.125	8
Houston	1	14	.067	8½
NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	9	5	.643	—
Denver	9	5	.643	—
Portland	8	8	.500	2
Oklahoma City	6	8	.429	3
Minnesota	5	9	.357	4
PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Golden State	13	2	.867	—
Phoenix	11	3	.786	1½
L.A. Clippers	9	5	.643	3½
L.A. Lakers	8	8	.500	5½
Sacramento	6	9	.400	7

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Golden State 104, Cleveland 89
Miami 112, Washington 97
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, late
San Antonio at Minnesota, late
Philadelphia at Denver, late
Toronto at Utah, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Golden State at Detroit, 7p.m.
Indiana at Charlotte, 7p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Orlando at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
Chicago at Denver, 9p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 10p.m.
Toronto at Sacramento, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 97, Washington 87
Detroit 97, Indiana 89
Atlanta 110, Boston 99
Brooklyn 109, Cleveland 99
Orlando 104, New York 98
Milwaukee 109, L.A. Lakers 102
Miami 113, New Orleans 98
Oklahoma City 101, Houston 89
Minnesota 107, Sacramento 97
Phoenix 105, Dallas 98
Portland 112, Chicago 107

ODDS

NBA FAVORITE	LINE	Q/U	FRIDAY UNDERDOG
Golden State	10½	(off)	at Detroit
at Charlotte	2½	(215)	Indiana
at Boston	off	(off)	LA Lakers
at Brooklyn	12½	(209)	Orlando
LA Clippers	5	(216½)atNewOrleans	
at Milwaukee	13	(214½) Okla. City	
at Denver	off	(off)	Chicago
at Sacramento	3½	(218)	Toronto
at Phoenix	off	(off)	Dallas

NHL FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	FRIDAY LINE
Winnipeg	-121	at Vancouver	+101
Colorado	-156	at Seattle	+134

COLLEGE BASKETBALL FAVORITE	LINE	Q/U	FRIDAY UNDERDOG
at Colorado St.	11½	(143½)	Bradley
at Troy	5½	(138½)	N. Dakota
at Creighton	12½	(136)	Brown
at Yngstwn St.	8½	(136)	St. Thomas
E. Washington	1½	(149½) atCSNridge	
Northeastern	1	(127) at Duquesne	
at Pittsburgh	5½	(133½)	Towson
at FAU	17	(145½)	UT Martin
at Maryland	12	(141½)	Hofstra
at Georgetown	16	(136½)	Sienna
George Mason	2	(144) at J. Madison	
at Minnesota	12	(141)	Ford Wayne
Auburn	13	(135½) at S. Florida	
at Nebraska	11½	(137)	Idaho State
at Kentucky	12	(147½)	Ohio
Arkansas St.	1	(150½)	at SE Mo.
Niagara	8½	(136½) at SIU-Edvile	
at Colorado	6½	(136)	S. Illinois
at Alabama	15½	(149½)	Oakland
at St. F. Austin	11	(137)	Mid Tenn.
at Memphis	15	(146)	W. Kentucky
Georgia Tech	5½	(138½) at Georgia	
at Santa Clara	16½	(137½)	Cal Poly
Arizona	7½	(136½) at Wichita St.	
at Pacific	2½	(134)	UTEP
at San Diego	6	(147)	CS-Full.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL FAVORITE	SP	Q/U	FRIDAY UNDERDOG
at La Tech	15½	(49)	So. Miss.
at Houston	8½	(60)	Memphis
at Wash. St.	15	(52½)	Arizona
at Nevada	1½	(52½)	Air Force
San Diego St.	10½	(41)	at UNLV
at Tulane	5½	(60½)	S. Florida
Purdue	11	(47½) at Nthwestern	
at Ohio State	19	(68½)	Michigan St.
at Penn State	17	(46½)	Rutgers
at Kentucky	36	(60)	N. Mex. St.
at Oklahoma	3½	(59½)	Iowa State
Kent State	13½	(73½)	at Akron
at W. Virginia	3	(56½)	Texas
at Army	37	(56)	UMass
at Boston Coll.	1½	(54½)	Florida State
at Clemson	4½	(56½)	Wake Forest
W. Kentucky	10½	(64½)	FAU
at Co. Carolina	24½	(60)	Texas State
at Iowa	12½	(38½)	Illinois
at Georgia St.	16½	(65½)	Arkansas St.
at Notre Dame	17½	(58½)	Georgia Tech
Washington	7	(43)	at Colorado
Minnesota	7½	(43½)	at Indiana
Michigan	14½	(56½)	at Maryland
at Alabama	20½	(58½)	Arkansas
East Carolina	4	(46½)	at Navy
at Wisconsin	9	(42)	Nebraska
at Cincinnati	1½	(65)	SMU
at Pittsburgh	14½	(66)	Virginia
Appalachian St.	9½	(51½)	at Troy
at Mid. Tenn.	4	(50)	Old Dominion
Marshall	14½	(61½)	at Charlotte
at UTSA	4½	(53½)	UAB
at UCF	30½	(55½)	UConn
at Tulsa	21½	(51)	Temple
UCLA	3	(65½)	at USC
at TCU	21	(64½)	Kansas
Florida	8½	(69½)	at Missouri
at Liberty	4½	(53½)	La-Lafayette
BYU	20	(57½)	at Ga. So.
at NC State	11½	(50½)	Syracuse
at UTEP	9½	(47)	Rice
at Kansas St.	1	(50)	Baylor
California	1½	(45½)	at Stanford
Auburn	7½	(44½)	at S. Carolina
North Texas	10	(57½)	at FIU
at Tennessee	28	(62)	S. Alabama
at UTAH	3	(59)	Oregon
at MIAMI	8	(56)	Virginia Tech
at Mississippi	36½	(64½)	Vanderbilt
Oklahoma St.	10½	(56½)	at Texas Tech
at Utah State	5½	(52½)	Wyoming
at LSU	29	(57½)	La-Monroe
at Boise State	27½	(48)	New Mexico
Arizona State	3	(59)	at Oregon St.
Colorado St.	2½	(54)	at Hawaii

NFL WEEK 11 FAVORITE	SP	Q/U	SUNDAY UNDERDOG
at Philadelphia	2	(43)	New Orleans
Miami	3½	(44½)	at NY Jets
at Carolina	3	(43)	Washington
at Buffalo	7	(49½)	Indianapolis
at Cleveland	11½	(43½)	Detroit
San Francisco	6½	(45)	at Jacksonville
at Tennessee	10	(44½)	Houston
Green Bay	7½	(47½)	at Minnesota
Baltimore	4½	(44½)	at Chicago
Cincinnati	1	(50½)	at Las Vegas
Arizona	2½	(48)	at Seattle
at Kansas City	2½	(55½)	Dallas
at LA Chargers	5½	(47)	Pittsburgh
at Tampa Bay	11	(49½)	NY Giants

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	17	12	2	3	27	66	43		
Toronto	18	12	5	1	25	48	43		
Tampa Bay	15	9	3	3	21	50	46		
Detroit	18	8	8	2	18	51	60		
Boston	13	8	5	0	16	41	37		
Buffalo	16	7	7	2	16	45	49		
Montreal	19	4	13	2	10	38	67		
Ottawa	15	4	10	1	9	36	52		
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Washington	17	10	2	5	25	58	39		
Carolina	14	12	2	0	24	49	27		
N.Y. Rangers	17	10	4	3	23	46	47		
Philadelphia	15	8	4	3	19	44	42		
New Jersey	15	7	5	3	17	43	46		
Columbus	13	8	5	0	16	44	41		
Pittsburgh	16	6	6	4	16	49	51		
N.Y. Islanders	13	5	6	2	12	29	39		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Winnipeg	15	9	3	3	21	51	40		
Minnesota	15	10	5	0	20	52	47		
Nashville	16	9	6	1	19	44	42		
St. Louis	15	8	5	2	18	54	43		
Colorado	13	7	5	1	15	47	41		
Dallas	14	6	6	2	14	37	46		
Chicago	16	5	9	2	12	37	53		
Arizona	16	2	13	1	5	27	63		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Calgary	17	9	3	5	23	54	34		
Anaheim	17	10	4	3	23	60	46		
Edmonton	15	11	4	0	22	61	47		
Vegas	16	9	7	0	18	49	50		
Los Angeles	16	8	6	2	18	42	39		
San Jose	15	8	6	1	17	44	45		
Vancouver	17	5	10	2	12	43	59		
Seattle	16	4	11	1	9	44	59		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Pittsburgh 6, Montreal 0
Calgary 5, Buffalo 0
Toronto 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Florida 4, New Jersey 1
Tampa Bay 4, Philadelphia 3 (SO)
Dallas at Minnesota, late
San Jose at St. Louis, late
Columbus at Arizona, late
Winnipeg at Edmonton, late
Carolina at Anaheim, late
Detroit at Vegas, late
Nashville at Ottawa, ppd

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Colorado at Seattle, 10p.m.
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Colorado 4, Vancouver 2
Chicago 4, Seattle 2
Washington 2, Los Angeles 0

SOCCER

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS EAST FIRST ROUND
Phi. vs. NY Red Bulls, Saturday, 2:30p.m.
Nashville vs. Orlando, Tuesday, 8p.m.
N.Y. City vs. Atlanta, Sunday, 3 p.m.
WEST FIRST ROUND
Seattle vs. Salt Lake, Tuesday, 10:30 p.m.
Sporting KC vs. Vancouver, Saturday, 10p.m.
Portland vs. Minnesota, Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

NWSL CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday in Louisville, noon
Chicago vs. Washington
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Leicester vs. Chelsea, 7:30a.m.
Aston Villa vs. Brighton, 10a.m.
Burnley vs. Crystal Palace, 10a.m.
Newcastle vs. Brentford, 10a.m.
Norwich vs. Southampton, 10a.m.
Watford vs. Man United, 10a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. West Ham, 10a.m.
Liverpool vs. Arsenal, 12:30p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Buffalo	6	3	0	.667	280	135			
New England	6	4	0	.600	275	177			
Miami	3	7	0	.300	177	252			
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	.222	161	296			
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Tennessee	8	2	0	.800	278	232			
Indianapolis	5	5	0	.500	268	230			
Jacksonville	2	7	0	.222	149	322			
Houston	1	8	0	.111	128	258			
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	231	217			
Pittsburgh	5	3	1	.611	177	185			
Cincinnati	5	4	0	.556	236	203			
Cleveland	5	5	0	.500	231	241			
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Kansas City	6	4	0	.600	262	241			
L.A. Chargers	5	4	0	.556	219	228			
Las Vegas	5	4	0	.556	210	230			
Denver	5	5	0	.500	200	183			

NATIONAL CONFERENCE									
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Dallas	7	2	0	.778	284	195			
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	257	231			
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	.333	179	216			
Washington	3	6	0	.333	185	246			
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	279	212			
New Orleans	5	4	0	.556	222	178			
Carolina	5	5	0	.500	205	193			
Atlanta	4	5	0	.444	178	263			
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Green Bay	8	2	0	.800	216	180			
Minnesota	4	5	0	.444	221	211			
Chicago	3	6	0	.333	150	224			
Detroit	0	8	1	.056	150	260			
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
Arizona	8	2	0	.800	287	189			
L.A. Rams	7	3	0	.700	271	227			
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	216	212			
Seattle	3	6	0	.333	181	186			

WEEK 11 THURSDAY'S RESULT
New England at Atlanta, late
SUNDAY'S GAMES
Baltimore at Chicago, 1p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 1p.m.
Green Bay at Minnesota

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: UConn vs. Binghamton, noon, FS1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: UConn vs. Minnesota at Battle4Atlantis, noon, FloHoops

UConn
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KNICKS

Randle calls season-opening slump ‘weird’

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — It was following another disjointed and clunky performance from the Knicks, when the realization and understanding seemed to hit Julius Randle: this isn't working.

"It's just weird out there right now," he said. "That's the best way I could describe it. It's just kind of weird and just a little bit choppy and we're just trying to figure it out."

This was an unusually open and reflective Randle, who struggled again in Wednesday's 104-98 loss to the Magic and hasn't looked at all like the same All-Star from last season. His comfort is gone. Maybe his confidence, too. It was evident when Randle entered with 3:42 remaining in the game and played the role of spectator to the offense, giving up the ball quickly and declining to take a single shot.

"It hasn't been great," Randle said of his play. "Like I said, a lot of this stuff is rhythm trying to find each other out. I think it's been exactly how the season went. There's been good days and there's been not great days. That's pretty much who we are right now. We're not a consistent team."

The Knicks (8-7) should hope this is a turning point. If not, they're in trouble. No team in the Eastern Conference is worse than the Magic (4-11), which has already won twice this season at MSG.

The fourth quarter was a microcosm of November, with the Knicks losing six of their last nine while struggling to hammer in a rotation.

The new backcourt of Evan Fournier and Kemba Walker was benched for the entire fourth quarter yet again, watching as Orlando's Franz Wagner delivered a devastating blow with an and-1 slam dunk by blowing past Immanuel Quickley.

The knockout arrived with 30 seconds left when Jalen Suggs intercepted Derrick Rose's pass and hit Wendell Carter for an alley-oop and a 102-96 Orlando lead.

Game over. After Randle subbed in for an injured Mitchell Robinson with 3:42 remaining, the Knicks were outscored 13-4.

"They played well. They played hard. We didn't,"



Julius Randle knows the Knicks just aren't working right. **MATT SLOCUM/AP**

coach Tom Thibodeau said. "I have to do a better job getting them ready. That's on me."

Thibodeau, the NBA's reigning Coach of the Year, shouldered some blame after his team fell to 2-5 at home. His rotations have been clunky and the defense that defined last season has disappeared, but the front office also saddled Thibodeau with a starting backcourt — Walker and Fournier — that he clearly doesn't trust to close games.

"I always say when you don't meet your goals or you're disappointed, you start with yourself and you work your way out," Thibodeau said. "And so, what can I do to help? And my job is to have them ready, and so I didn't think we played as well as we were capable of playing. I felt like that falls on me, so I gotta make sure that we have that edge and that we're ready to go. And so I'll start there."

Thibodeau's squad has become increasingly reliant on 3-pointers, which backfired Wednesday when they missed 33 treys. RJ Barrett went 0-for-7 and launched an ill-advised contested step-back 3-pointer with about one minute left that helped bury the Knicks. It elicited a groan from the fans. Then after the final buzzer, the crowd booed the Knicks.

It had been a long time since that sound hit MSG. Last season was not only a surprising and inspiring success, it was largely played in an empty arena because of COVID-19. Now the Knicks are facing adversity and they're being watched closely.

"I know it feels the end of the world here in New York," Randle said. "But it's 15 games in."

WNBA

from Page 1

single-elimination games created a win-and-advance level of excitement to the start of the postseason, the new best-of-three series format will provide added opportunities to create and showcase rivalries with all playoff-eligible teams participating," Engelbert said.

In the new format, the No. 1 seed will play the eighth-seeded team in the opening round. The winner of that series will play either the fourth or fifth seed in the semifinals. On the other side of the bracket, the No. 3 seed will play the sixth-seeded team and the second seed will face No. 7. Those two winners will play in the semifinals.

"Really excited for our

league to move to all series," Connecticut Sun coach Curt Miller said. "It's ultimately where we want to be. There's growth with even that down the line."

The higher seed will host the first two games of the best-of-three series. The lower seed will host a third game if necessary. That potentially will save the league time and money on travel in the postseason instead of going with a more traditional format where the teams alternate home games.

The semifinals and finals series will remain unchanged from the previous format, with the higher seed hosts the first two games and a decisive fifth game if necessary.

Chicago won its first WNBA championship last month as a No. 6 seed, beating fifth-seeded Phoenix.



Hartford coach John Gallagher calls out to his team in the second half of Thursday's game Boston University. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO HARTFORD COURANT**

Amore

from Page 1

too.

"It was a great crowd," Gallagher said. "The facts are, we don't have a full-time ticket guy. We are what we are. Everyone's working very hard, doing a great job, we're excited. For us, it's how do we build off that for Dec. 14 and the Jack Phelan Classic."

In the rest of the seats were plenty of the old familiar faces, the alums and community figures that form what Gallagher dubbed "The Neighborhood," a concept that caught on as the Hawks won the America East championship and played in the NCAA Tournament, losing to eventual champ Baylor.

"The [lacrosse players] did a fantastic job," said Joe Coughlin, a 1980 alum, donor and former Board of Regents member. "The first home game, we're happy with it. Look what this man [coach John Gallagher] has done: The [university leaders] have starved this. There is no VIP section. We have no seats on the court. They're going to say it's due to COVID, but this is intentional. They basically have sent a message that we're not going to be a D-I program, they don't have a D-III conference that will take us. So what happens? People start to leave."

Gallagher, as is well documented, stayed and his players stayed with him in hopes of making a run back to the NCAA Tournament, as the fight to reverse the school's decision goes on. The Hawks, missing two starters, Austin Williams and Jejuan Clayton, with injuries, are 0-4 now, having lost to three teams picked to win their conference, Wagner, Campbell and BU, but it's the America East games that will count.

"They had no quit in them," said BU coach Joe Jones. "They kept coming at us. I like their team, they're going to be tough." UHart scheduled only one home game in November, this was it, and one in December. With the ticket department largely eliminated, it's up to the program to rally its campus.

"I'm on the lacrosse team and we don't really have a season anymore," said Chris Ladyga, a senior from Norwich who helped distribute

T-shirts. "A lot of people transferred out. We're just trying to make the best of it, support everyone, we're all in this together. We all have high expectations and high hopes for the basketball team and everyone's got their back."

"We're hyped for our basketball team," said junior Reese Gerlach, who watched in a black suit from the first row of the student section. "Obviously, we're angry with the decision. It's not something we stand for. As student-athletes, the decision was made above us and we really didn't have any say in it."

And the fight goes on. UHart's future is more likely to be decided in court than on their home court, but on it goes. The Hawks' only controllable goal is another ticket for March Madness, and that road begins with conference play Jan. 2 vs. Stony Brook.

"I'm really excited about our group in January, February and March," Gallagher said. "It's just staying with it. Once we clean things up, we'll be on our way."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

BIG EAST ROUNDUP

Xavier beats No. 19 Ohio St.

Associated Press

Jack Nunge had 14 points and 14 rebounds, Paul Scruggs also scored 14 points and Xavier led wire to wire in knocking off No. 19 Ohio State 71-65 on Thursday night in Cincinnati.

Jamari Wheeler hit a 3-pointer to get Ohio State within two points with 17 seconds left, the closest the Buckeyes had been all evening.

A pair of free throws by Scruggs pushed the Xavier lead back to four. Scruggs then stole Ohio State's inbounds pass and sank two more free throws to ice the game for the Musketeers (3-0).

Nate Johnson had 12 points and Adam Kunkel added 10 for Xavier.

E.J. Liddell had a season-low 17 points for the Buckeyes (3-1), who had dropped two spots in the AP Top 25 after two closer-than-expected games to start the season. Meechie Johnson Jr. had 14 points and Kyle Young scored 12.

Neither team shot particularly well. Ohio State began the game shooting 1-for-10. Xavier made 40% of its shots for the game, and the Buckeyes shot 37.7%.

The Musketeers led by nine at the half. They were up by as much as 11 points in the second half, but the Buckeyes began chipping away in the final five minutes and looked as if they might pull it out when Wheeler hit the big 3.

Providence 69, New Hampshire 58: At Providence, R.I., Noah Horchler had 10 points and 12 rebounds to lift the Friars to the nonconference win. Aljami Durham had 19 points for Providence, which won its fourth consecutive game to open the season. Nate Watson added 17 points. Justin Minaya had 10 rebounds. Qon Murphy had 15 points for the Wildcats (1-2). Nick Guadarrama added 13 points. Blondeau Tchoukieugno had seven assists.



Ohio State's Kyle Young (25) defends Xavier's Jack Nunge (24). **AARON DOSTER/AP**

UConn

from Page 1

two assists and one block in 24 minutes. His high-flying energy left an impression on his teammates.

"[Martin] plays with a lot of force and lot of energy," Jackson said. "So when he makes a good rebound or defensive play, it gets the whole team going."

"He's also like a very energetic and empathetic person, so when he's going it makes other people going.

When I see him go so hard, it makes me want to go so hard. I think that's something that carries on to [the] rest of the team."

Hawkins makes season debut: Coming off an ankle injury, freshman Jordan Hawkins made his season debut in the second half. He finished with five points on 1-for-4 shooting.

UConn shot just 8-for-30 from 3-point territory, something Hawkins should help improve in future games.

"He's got a superpower and that is shooting," UConn associate head coach Kimani Young said Tuesday.

"He can really shoot it. That's been a challenge for us that [he] can help, especially when you got a guy like Adama [Sanogo], where teams are going to shrink the floor, trap and double. So to have that kind of shooting threat on the court is helpful."

Mora pays another visit to Gampel: New UConn foot-

ball head coach Jim Mora stopped by Gampel Pavilion on Wednesday night after stopping by the women's game Sunday.

Mora loved the passion from the student section and urged students to come out and fill Rentschler Field.

"I'm so excited to be here, Mora said. "And listen, our guys have one more home game on Nov. 27th ... and we have to get you guys out there."

"Let's get that student section filled up!"

Did you know?

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by the day before Thanksgiving and Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Manfred: Lockout could be coming

While insisting Major League Baseball is focused on reaching a labor deal, Commissioner Rob Manfred signaled Thursday that owners likely will lock out players if the current contract expires Dec. 1 without a new agreement. Baseball had eight work stoppages from 1972-95, but there has been labor peace since a 7 ½-month strike began in August 1994 and forced the cancellation of the World Series for the first time in 90 years. “We’ve been down this path. We locked out in ’89-’90,” Manfred said. “I don’t think ’94 worked out too great for anybody. I think when you look at other sports, the pattern has become to control the timing of the labor dispute and try to minimize the prospect of actual disruption of the season.” Talks have been going on since spring but have lacked the momentum toward an agreement that characterized negotiations that led to deals in 2006, ’11 and ’16. Baseball had a 32-day spring training lockout in 1990 and while opening day was delayed a week, each team was scheduled for a full 162 games. “Honestly, I can’t believe there’s a single fan in the world who doesn’t understand that an offseason lockout that moves the process forward is different than a labor dispute that costs games,” Manfred said.

Browns’ Mayfield practices, likely to play



Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield returned to practice Thursday after missing one day to rest an assortment of injuries. Mayfield is dealing with shoulder, foot and knee issues. However, he’s expected to play Sunday when the Browns (5-5) host the Lions (0-8-1). Mayfield was kept off the field on Wednesday, when he seemed unsure of his status for this week’s game. The 25-year-old looked good during the portion of Thursday’s practice open to reporters, firing passes and moving well despite his knee and foot injuries. He hurt his right knee in the third quarter of last week’s 45-7 loss to the Patriots. Backup Case Keenum, who started one game earlier this season when Mayfield couldn’t play because of a torn labrum and fracture in his left, non-throwing shoulder, finished up. Mayfield has thrown just nine touchdown passes in nine games as the injuries have affected his performance. “And it’s not like it’s one particular thing; it’s multiple [injuries],” Mayfield said on Wednesday. “It’s just that time of the year, and things add up. Couple things after the other. So it is what it is.”

US weighs diplomatic boycott of Games

President Joe Biden said Thursday that the United States was weighing a diplomatic boycott of next year’s Winter Olympics in Beijing over China’s human rights abuses, a move that would keep American dignitaries, not athletes, from the games. Speaking to reporters as he hosted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the Oval Office, Biden said backing a boycott of the Olympics in February is “something we’re considering.” The U.S. and other nations traditionally send high-level delegations to each Olympics. First lady Jill Biden led the American contingent to the Summer Olympics in Tokyo this year and second gentleman Doug Emhoff led a delegation to the Paralympic Games. International advocacy groups and some members of Congress have called for a symbolic U.S. boycott of the games in Beijing over China’s treatment of Uyghurs and its crackdown on freedoms in Hong Kong. The participation of American athletes would be unaffected by the boycott. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said there was no timeline for a decision by the president on whether to go through with a possible boycott. The White House has said the Olympics did not come up on Monday when Biden met virtually with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. —AP



Peng Shuai hasn’t been seen since accusing an ex-government official of assault. DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE NEW YORKTIMES

TENNIS

Searching for Shuai

Safety concerns raised due to doubts over star’s email

By Huizhong Wu
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A Chinese professional tennis player not seen in public since she accused a former top government official of sexual assault purportedly sent an email claiming she was safe and that the allegation was false, a message that only amplified concerns about her safety and demands for information about her well-being and whereabouts. So far, those calls have been met by silence. Chinese officials have said nothing publicly since the accusation about two weeks ago by Grand Slam doubles champion Peng Shuai that she was sexually assaulted. The first #MeToo case to reach the political realm in China has not been reported by the domestic media and online discussion of it has been highly censored. Steve Simon, the chairman and CEO of the Women’s Tennis Association, questioned the authenticity of what Chinese state media said was an email intended for him in which Peng says she is safe and that the assault allegation is untrue. It was posted Thursday by CGTN, the international arm of China’s state broadcaster CCTV. “I have a hard time believing that Peng Shuai actually wrote the email we received or believes what is being attributed to her,” Simon wrote. The statement, he added, “only raises my concerns as to her safety and whereabouts.”

Simon has demanded a full investigation, and the WTA said it is prepared to pull tournaments out of the country if it doesn’t get an appropriate response. Top players including Naomi Osaka and Novak Djokovic have spoken out, and the hashtag Whereis-PengShuai is trending online. China has largely suppressed a #MeToo movement that flourished briefly in 2018 and is forging ahead with the Beijing Winter Olympics in February despite boycott calls by activists and some overseas politicians over China’s human rights record. Asked repeatedly about the case, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said again on Thursday that he is unaware of it. The 35-year-old Peng is a former No. 1-ranked player in women’s doubles, who won titles at Wimbledon in 2013 and the French Open in 2014. She wrote in a lengthy social media post on Nov. 2 that Zhang Gaoli, a former vice premier who was a member of the ruling Communist Party’s top leadership committee, had forced her to have sex despite repeated refusals three years ago. The post was quickly deleted from her verified account on Weibo, a leading Chinese social media platform, but screenshots of the explosive accusation quickly spread across China’s internet. She has not appeared in public since then, raising questions about her whereabouts and whether she is being detained. Zhang, who is 75, dropped from public sight after his retirement in 2018, as is usual for former senior officials. He is not known to have any close connections to current leaders. Peng’s accusation is the first high

profile accusation of sexual assault against a powerful politician in China. Past accusations touched on prominent figures in the non-profit world, academia and media, but never reached the Communist Party’s top officials or state-owned companies. CGTN posted the statement on Twitter, which is blocked in China along with many other foreign platforms such as Google and Facebook. It did not post it on Chinese social media, nor was there any mention of the purported email behind the Great Firewall, which separates the Chinese internet from the rest of the world. Some internet users have circumvented the controls and posted about the news in private social media groups. Freeweibo.com, which records censored posts from Weibo, said searches for “Peng Shuai” and “Zhang Gaoli” were both among the top 10 searched topics on Thursday. Searches for Peng Shuai’s name on China’s Sogou search engine turn up only articles about her tennis career. Her account on Weibo no longer allows comments, and no results turn up if people search for her Weibo account. Peng wrote that Zhang’s wife guarded the door during the alleged assault, which followed a round of tennis. Her post also said they had sex seven years ago and she had feelings for him after that. “Yes, aside from myself, I kept no evidence, no recordings, no videos, only the real experience of my twisted self. Even if I’m destroying myself, like throwing an egg against a rock, or a moth flying into a flame, I will still speak out the truth about us,” the now-deleted post said.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES TO WATCH

Time to put up or shut up for teams

By Matt Murschel | Orlando Sentinel



No. 7 Michigan State (9-1) at No. 4 Ohio State (9-1)

Noon Saturday, ABC
The winner gains control of the Big Ten East while the loser is out of contention for a spot in the College Football Playoff. Ohio State hopes to extend its winning streak over Michigan State to six with the last Spartans win coming in 2015. This one features a pair of Heisman Trophy candidates in Buckeyes quarterback C.J. Stroud, who averages a conference-best in passing yards (337.3) and passing touchdowns (30) and MSU tailback Kenneth Walker III, who leads the nation in rushing yards (1,473) and rushing touchdowns (17).



No. 10 Wake Forest (9-1) at Clemson (7-3)

Noon Saturday, ESPN
Clemson started the season as the favorite in the ACC but offensive struggles saw the Tigers plunge out of the picture. That’s opened the door for Wake Forest to make a push for its first ACC title since 2006. This one becomes an elimination game of sorts with the Demon Deacons able to clinch the Atlantic Division and a spot in the championship with a win or a win vs. Boston College. Clemson’s path is less clear with the Tigers needing a win and a Wake loss next week as well as a loss by N.C. State to either Syracuse or North Carolina.



No. 21 Arkansas (7-3) at No. 2 Alabama (9-1)

3:30 p.m. Saturday, CBS
Arkansas is riding a three-game winning streak with three of its seven wins coming against ranked teams including Texas, Texas A&M and Mississippi State. The Razorbacks hope to snap a 14-game losing streak to Alabama with their last win in Tuscaloosa coming in 2006. The Crimson Tide can clinch their third SEC West title in four seasons with a win, setting up a meeting with No. 1 Georgia in the SEC Championship. Alabama linebacker Will Anderson Jr. leads the nation in sacks (12.5) and tackles for loss (21.5) and is a dark horse for the Heisman Trophy.



SMU (7-3) at No. 5 Cincinnati (10-0)

3:30 p.m. Saturday, ESPN
Cincinnati continues its quest to become the first Group of Five team to qualify for the College Football Playoff. The Bearcats can clinch a spot in the American Athletic Conference championship vs. Houston with a win over SMU or East Carolina (Nov. 26). SMU can win nine games for the first time in the last three seasons. The Mustangs’ two losses (Houston, Memphis) were by a combined 10 points. Cincinnati is tied for the second-longest home winning streak in the country, having won 25 straight at Nippert Stadium, with the last loss coming in 2017.



No. 3 Oregon (9-1) at No. 23 Utah (7-3)

7:30 p.m. Saturday, ABC
Oregon faces its biggest challenge since upsetting then-No. 3 Ohio State in Columbus on Sept. 11. A loss would all but eliminate the Ducks from contention for the College Football Playoff and would mean the Pac-12 would have gone six seasons without a team in the national championship mix. Utah coach Kyle Whittingham can become the school’s all-time wins leader with a victory. A win would also give the Utes the inside track on the Pac-12 South crown and most likely would mean a rematch against Oregon in the conference championship game.

Other top 25 games of note

- No. 8 Michigan at Maryland:** Sandwich game for the Wolverines between come-from-behind win at Penn State and The Game against Ohio State.
- No. 9 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech:** Cowboys have won 10 of 12 against the Red Raiders, including five of six in Lubbock.
- Iowa State at No. 12 Oklahoma:** Last six meetings have been decided by 10 points or fewer.



The Heisman candidacy of Michigan State running back Kenneth Walker III could get a big boost if his Spartans upset Ohio State in Columbus on Saturday. CARLOS OSORIO/AP

WEATHER

FRIDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Chance for a shower early in eastern areas of the state, partly sunny, breezy and much cooler.

HIGH 47°
LOW 27°

SATURDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny and cool.

HIGH 47°
LOW 31°

SUNDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy and milder, chance for some late day showers. Periods of rain at night.

HIGH 54°
LOW 46°

MONDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Periods of rain tapering off midday, breezy.

HIGH 55°
LOW 32°

TUESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny, breezy and cooler.

HIGH 44°
LOW 25°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER

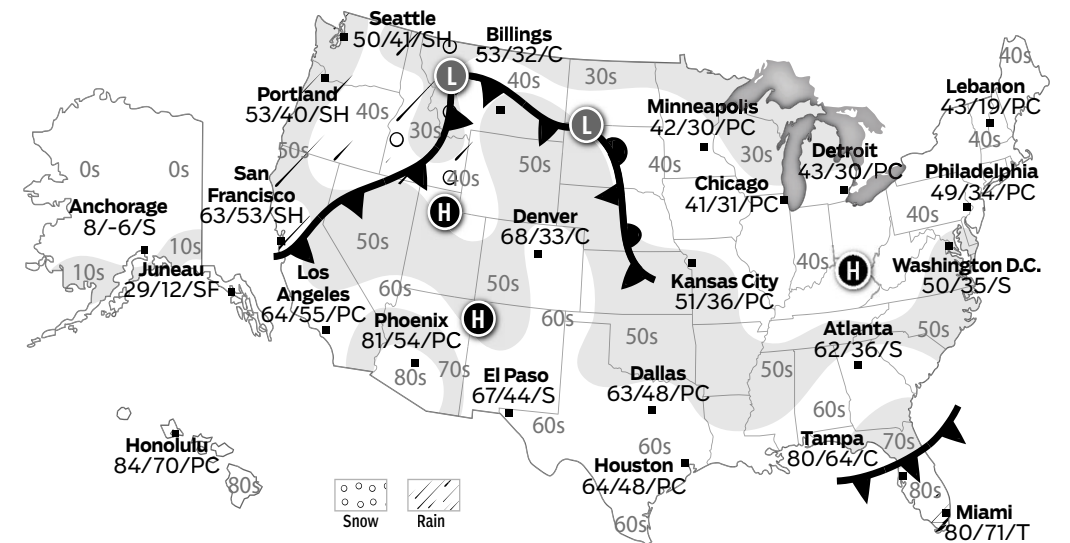
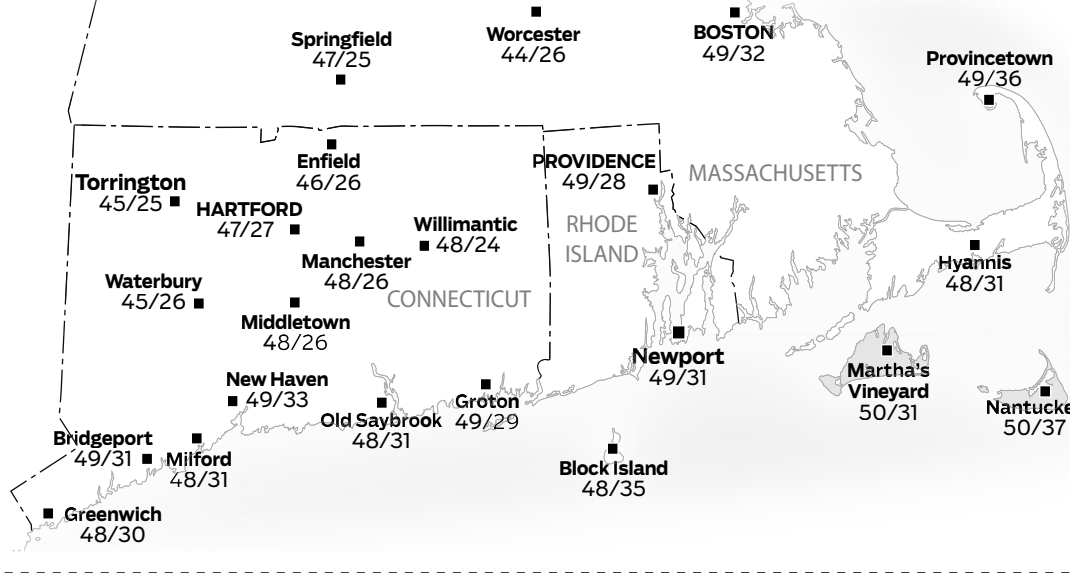
For the latest weather news throughout your day.



courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

A departing frontal system could cause a few scattered showers early Friday in the eastern half of the state, otherwise, high pressure over the Tennessee Valley will be ridging into the state bringing partly sunny skies and very breezy conditions. Winds will be northwest at 10 to 20 mph with peak gusts up to 35 mph possible. The sky will clear overnight. High pressure will bring mostly sunny skies and cool temperatures Saturday. A potent system will cause mostly cloudy skies Sunday and there could be late day showers. Rain is likely Sunday night until midday Monday.

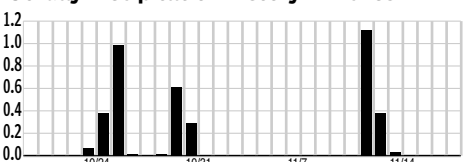
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

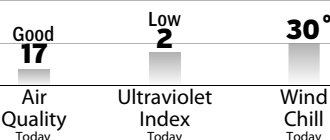
Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.12
Month to date	1.53	2.01
Total this year	51.57	41.47

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

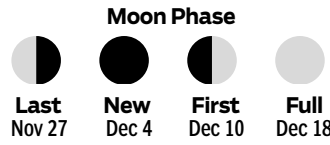
30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:45 a.m.	6:46 a.m.
Sunset	4:27 p.m.	4:27 p.m.
Moonrise	4:41 a.m.	5:15 p.m.
Moonset	6:56 a.m.	7:58 a.m.



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	9:02 a.m.	3:00 a.m.	52°
Saybrook Jetty	9:25 p.m.	3:48 p.m.	53°
Connecticut River at Portland	10:13 a.m.	3:53 a.m.	
Madison	10:36 p.m.	4:41 p.m.	
New Haven	12:38 a.m.	7:39 a.m.	54°
Stamford	10:32 a.m.	4:15 a.m.	
	11:02 p.m.	4:53 p.m.	
	10:52 a.m.	4:39 a.m.	54°
	11:22 p.m.	5:17 p.m.	
	10:56 a.m.	4:53 a.m.	57°
	11:26 p.m.	5:31 p.m.	

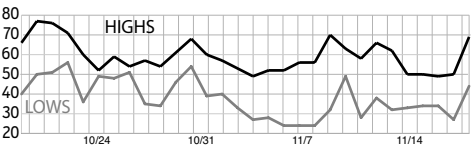
River Stage at Hartford: 6.16 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
Weather	PCloudy	PCloudy	PCloudy
Wind	NW, 15-20	NW, 15-20	NW, 15-20
Seas	2-3 ft.	2-3 ft.	3-5 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	69 at 2:12 p.m.	44 at 5:39 a.m.
Normal for date	51	32
Record for date	73 in 1963	15 in 1936
A year ago	34	18
Range this year	99	1

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Nov 18	638	855	734

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.13 at 12 a.m.	29.86 at 4 p.m.
Dew point	50° at 9 a.m.	39° at 12 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND

Bangor	46 24 PC
Burlington	42 26 PC
Caribou	39 22 C
Concord	46 19 PC
Montpelier	38 19 C
Mt. Wash.	14 5 C
Portland	49 26 PC
Woods Hole	48 31 PC

NATION

Albany	45 26 PC
Albuquerque	59 36 PC
Atlantic City	48 27 S

Baltimore	48 29 S
Bismarck	48 22 PC
Boise	52 31 SH
Buffalo	39 30 C
Charleston	62 39 S
Cincinnati	43 27 S
Cleveland	38 27 PC
Indianapolis	43 29 S
Jacksonville	69 52 PC
Las Vegas	72 52 PC
Miami Beach	79 74 T
Milwaukee	39 30 PC
Nashville	52 30 S
New Orleans	63 50 S
New York	47 36 PC
Okla. City	59 44 PC
Omaha	53 31 PC
Orlando	78 64 C
Pittsburgh	39 23 PC
Raleigh	54 30 S
St. Louis	50 35 S
Salt Lake City	52 35 C
San Antonio	66 52 PC
San Diego	66 57 PC
San Juan	86 76 PC
Tucson	82 48 S

WORLD

Amsterdam	55 46 C
Athens	61 48 C
Bangkok	91 75 R
Barbados	86 72 S
Beijing	48 37 C
Belin	70 61 SH
Berlin	55 50 C
Bermuda	74 68 PC
Budapest	52 46 C
Buenos Aires	84 64 PC
Cairo	74 58 PC
Cancun	83 70 T
Dubai	88 75 S
Dublin	55 37 C
Edinburgh	57 51 C
Helsinki	41 32 SH
Hong Kong	79 72 PC
Istanbul	54 45 R
Jerusalem	61 54 SH
Johannesburg	79 55 T
Kingston	86 75 SH
Lisbon	66 52 PC
London	57 50 C
Madrid	57 48 C
Mexico City	67 49 PC
Milan	55 39 SH
Montreal	39 27 SF
Moscow	36 32 SN
Nassau	82 72 T
New Delhi	81 55 PC
Paris	54 45 C
Prague	52 46 C
Rio de Janeiro	77 63 T
Rome	63 45 PC
Seoul	63 39 C
Singapore	93 75 T
Stockholm	51 37 C
Sydney	82 63 SH
Tel Aviv	71 58 T
Tokyo	66 45 S
Toronto	43 30 SH
Vancouver	45 37 S
Warsaw	52 48 SH

WEDNESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULT

CIAC STATE TOURNAMENTS

BOYS SOCCER

Class LL - Semifinal
FARMINGTON 1, STAPLES 0

THURSDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

FOOTBALL

Pequot Inter
ROCKVILLE 35, VALLEY REGIONAL/OLD LYME 8
SCC Tier 3
FORAN 35, BASSICK 8
EAST HAVEN AT GUILFORD, LATE
LAW AT BRANFORD, LATE
NVL Inter
WCA 38, ST. PAUL 8
HOLY CROSS 35, SEYMOUR 6
NAUGATUCK 37, CROSBY 14
OXFORD AT KENNEDY, LATE
FCIAC East
FAIRFIELD WARDE 25, MACMAHON 20
Others
FITCH 41, CAPITAL PREP/ACHIEVEMENT
FIRST 12
HAMDEN 39, WESTHILL 13
CIAC STATE TOURNAMENTS

BOYS SOCCER

Class S - Semifinals at Veteran's Stadium, New Britain
CANTON 0, GRIWOLD 0 (CANTON WINS IN PK'S, 1-0)
No. 6 Somers (15-3-1) vs. No. 2 Old Saybrook (16-0-2), late

GIRLS SWIMMING

CIAC Diving State Open
Final results: 1. Hannah Chucks, Westhill/Stamford, 462.75; 2. Adriana Mieses-Sanchez, Windsor, 456.95; 3. Natalie Penman, New Canaan, 449.20; 4. Kaitlyn Magglo, New Canaan, 446.75; 5. Jade-Su Casey, Glastonbury, 431.30; 6. Annie Bingle, Greenwich, 430.30; 7. Alison Colburn, Conard, 424.55; 8. Julia Stefanowicz, Westhill/Stamford, 399.00; 9. MaKenna Sharpe, Law, 390.50; 10. Ava Gravgard, Brookfield, 383.60; 11. Ella Olafsson, New Canaan, 381.05; 12. Cali Mandell, Weston, 379.70; 13. Kate Whitaker, Staples, 372.90; 14. Javiera Garcia, Greenwich, 372.20; 15. Ella Bernegger, Woodland, 370.80; 16. Megan Hayes, Darien, 364.35; 17. Mia Guster, Staples, 348.70; 18. Kathryn Wittenauer, Masuk, 346.55; 19. Sophie Root, New Canaan, 337.50; 20. Esme Merrill, Greenwich, 337.10; 21. Mykayla Lavery, Brookfield, 333.35; 22. Lilly Wurm, Darien, 332.55; 23. Annelise Enters, Darien, 332.00; 24. Olivia Perkins, Darien, 325.25; 25. Camille Caldrello, Waterford, 234.10

FRIDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL

CCC Tier 1: Manchester at East Hartford, 6:30 p.m.
CCC Inter: New Britain at Berlin, 7 p.m.
Pequot Inter: Haddam-Killingworth at SMSA, 6 p.m.; Stafford/East Windsor/Somers at Cromwell/Portland, 6 p.m.; Coginchaug/Hale-Ray/East Hampton at Granby/Canton, 6:30 p.m.; Morgan at Ellington, 6:30 p.m.; Old Saybrook/Westbrook at Coventry/Windham Tech/Bolton/Lyman Memorial, 6:30 p.m.
CTC: Prince Tech at Northwest Unit., 6 p.m.; VG Techs at Cheney Tech, 6 p.m.; Wilcox Tech/Kaynor Tech at Platt Tech, 7 p.m.
SCC Tier 1: Hand at Notre Dame-West Haven, 7 p.m.
SCC Tier 2: Hillhouse at Griswold, 7 p.m.
ECC Div. II: Montville at Armitage/Wheelers, 6:30 p.m.
NVL Inter: Torrington at Wolcott, 6:30 p.m.
Others: New London at Wilbur Cross, 7 p.m.; Pomperaug at Wilton, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL

CCC Tier 1: Conard at Hall, 1:30 p.m.
CCC Tier 2: Enfield at South Windsor, noon
Pequot Inter: Windsor Locks/Suffield/East

Granby at CREC co-op, 11 a.m.
CTC: O'Brien Tech at Bullard-Havens/Kolbe Academy, noon; Abbott Tech/Immaculate at Thames River, 1:30 p.m.
ECC Div. II: Windham at Bacon Academy, 11 a.m.
Others: Glastonbury at Xavier, 1:30 p.m.
CIAC STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

BOYS SOCCER

ALL FINALS AT DILLON STADIUM, HARTFORD
Class LL
No. 13 Cheshire (12-4-2) vs. No. 7 Farmington (16-3-1), 6:30 p.m.
Class M
No. 12 Ellington (14-4-2) vs. No. 3 Stonington (18-1), 11 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

ALL FINALS AT DILLON STADIUM, HARTFORD
Class LL
No. 10 Wilton (12-1-6) vs. No. 9 Staples (13-2-4), 4 p.m.
Class M
No. 4 Mercy (16-2-2) vs. No. 3 Sacred Heart Academy, 1:30 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

ALL FINALS AT WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
Class L
No. 11 Wilton (12-3-4) vs. No. 1 New Canaan (19-0), noon
Class M
No. 2 Wethersfield (18-1) vs. No. 1 Guilford (18-1), 10 a.m.
Class S
No. 4 North Branford (15-2) vs. No. 2 Stonington (17-2), 2 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

ALL FINALS AT EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL
Class LL
No. 12 Fairfield Ludlowe (18-5) vs. No. 2 Greenwich (22-1), 7 p.m.
Class L
No. 11 Simsbury (18-5) vs. No. 1 RHAM (21-1), 4 p.m.
Class M
No. 2 Seymour (21-0) vs. No. 1 Weston (23-0), 1 p.m.
Class S
No. 8 Coventry (18-6) vs. No. 3 Lyman Memorial (19-2), 10 a.m.

SUNDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

CIAC STATE TOURNAMENTS

BOYS SOCCER

ALL FINALS AT DILLON STADIUM, HARTFORD
Class L
No. 14 Fitch (14-5) vs. No. 12 Wethersfield (14-3-3), 1:30 p.m.
Class S
No. 8 Canton (16-4) vs. Somers/Old Saybrook winner, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

ALL FINALS AT DILLON STADIUM, HARTFORD
Class L
No. 10 Simsbury (12-2-6) vs. No. 1 St. Joseph (18-0-1), 4 p.m.
Class S
No. 24 Northwest Catholic (10-8-2) vs. No. 2 Holy Cross (16-2-1), 11 a.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING

CIAC State Open at Cornerstone Aquatic, West Hartford, noon

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

BUTLER 3, UCONN 0 (26-24, 25-19, 25-19)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

BOSTON UNIVERSITY 75, HARTFORD 70

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CENTRAL 67, BROWN 60
QUINNIPAC 75, ARMY 56
HARTFORD AT HOUSTON BAPTIST, LATE

FRIDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Xavier at UConn, 7 p.m.
MAAC Tournament - Quarterfinals (Loudonville, N.Y.)
Siena vs. Fairfield, 11 a.m.
Quinnipiac vs. Marist, 8 p.m.
NEC Tournament - Semifinal (Smithfield, R.I.)
LIU vs. Sacred Heart, 3:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

UConn at Bucknell, 10 a.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Yale at Vermont, 4 p.m.
AJ Buchanan Classic (Purchase, N.Y.)
Kean vs. Trinity, 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Maine at Yale, 6 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriott Tournament (Middletown)
Hartwick at Wesleyan, 6 p.m.
Albertus Magnus vs. Sage, 8 p.m.
MAAC/ASUN Challenge (Lake Buena Vista, Fla.)
Stetson vs. Fairfield, 1:30 p.m.
MEN'S HOCKEY
Trinity at Conn. College, 7 p.m.
Wesleyan at Tufts, 7 p.m.
Clarkson at Quinnipiac, 7 p.m.
Yale at Colgate, 7:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart at Air Force, 9 p.m.
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Quinnipiac at Cornell, 3 p.m.
Providence at UConn, 6 p.m.
Yale at St. Lawrence, 6 p.m.
Bowdoin at Wesleyan, 7 p.m.
Sacred Heart at St. Michael's, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL

St. Francis (Pa.) at Central, noon
Harvard at Yale, noon
Sacred Heart at LIU, noon
UConn at Central Florida, 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

NCAA Div. III Tournament - Third Round (Cambridge, Mass.)
Wesleyan vs. Johns Hopkins, 11 a.m.

FIELD HOCKEY

NCAA Div. III Tournament - Semifinals (Trinity, Hartford)
Middlebury vs. Rowan, 11 a.m.
Johns Hopkins vs. Trinity, 2 p.m.
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
MAAC Tournament - Semifinals (Loudonville, N.Y.)
TBA vs. TBA, 4 p.m.
TBA vs. TBA, 7 p.m.
NEC Tournament - Semifinal (Smithfield, R.I.)
TBA vs. TBA, 3 p.m.

MEN'S SWIMMING

Eastern at Plymouth State, 1 p.m.
Trinity at Babson, 2 p.m.
Bates, Wheaton at Wesleyan, 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

UConn at Bucknell, 10 a.m.
Eastern at Plymouth State, 1 p.m.
Trinity at Babson, 2 p.m.
Bates, Wheaton at Wesleyan, 2 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Binghamton at UConn (XL Center), noon
Central at Quinnipiac, 1 p.m.
Eastern at Worcester State, 1 p.m.
Tufts at St. Joseph, 2 p.m.
Fairfield at Sacred Heart, 8 p.m.
AJ Buchanan Classic (Purchase, N.Y.)
Manhattanville/Brooklyn vs. Trinity, 2/4 p.m.
Herb Kenny Tournament (Middletown)
Pratt Institute at Wesleyan, 5:30 p.m.
Mitchell vs. WPI, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Trinity at Eastern, 3 p.m.
Hartford at Sam Houston State, 4 p.m.
Indiana at Quinnipiac, 4 p.m.
Battle 4 Atlantis (Paradise Island, Bahamas)
Minnesota vs. UConn, noon
Courtyard by Marriott Tournament (Middletown)

Albertus Magnus vs. Hartwick, 12:30 p.m.
Sage at Wesleyan, 2:30 p.m.
MAAC/ASUN Challenge (Lake Buena Vista, Fla.)
Florida Gulf Coast vs. Fairfield, noon
MEN'S HOCKEY
Wesleyan at Conn. College, 3 p.m.
UConn at UMass Lowell, 3:30 p.m.
Trinity at Tufts, 4 p.m.
Yale at Cornell, 7 p.m.
St. Lawrence at Quinnipiac, 7 p.m.
Sacred Heart at Air Force, 7 p.m.
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
UConn at Northeastern, 1:30 p.m.
Trinity at Norwich, 3 p.m.
Bowdoin at Wesleyan, 3 p.m.
Yale at Clarkson, 3 p.m.
Quinnipiac at Colgate, 3 p.m.
Sacred Heart at St. Michael's, 4 p.m.

WRESTLING

Trinity, Wesleyan at Doug Parker Invitational (Springfield, Mass.), 10 a.m.
MEN'S SQUASH
Trinity at MIT, 2 p.m.
WOMEN'S SQUASH
Wesleyan at Mount Holyoke, noon
Local college football schedules
UConn (1-9)
Sept. 28: Fresno State 45, UConn 0
Sept. 4: Holy Cross 38, UConn 28
Sept. 11: Purdue 49, UConn 0
Sept. 18: Army 52, UConn 21
Sept. 25: Wyoming 24, UConn 22
Oct. 2: Vanderbilt 30, UConn 13
Oct. 9: UMass 27, UConn 13
Oct. 16: UConn 21, Yale 15
Oct. 22: Middle Tennessee 44, UConn 13
Nov. 13: Clemson 44, UConn 7
Nov. 20: at Central Florida, 4 p.m.
Nov. 27: vs. Houston, noon
CENTRAL (3-7)
Sept. 3: Southern Conn. 28, Central 21
Sept. 11: Central 21, Wagner 19
Sept. 18: Southeastern Louisiana 56, Central 10
Sept. 25: Miami 69, Central 0
Oct. 9: Columbia 22, Central 20
Oct. 16: Sacred Heart 27, Central 17
Oct. 23: LIU 30, Central 13
Oct. 30: Central 49, Merrimack 21
Nov. 6: Central 30, Bryant 15
Nov. 13: Duquesne 31, Central 27
Nov. 20: vs. St. Francis (Pa.), noon
TRINITY (8-1)
Sept. 18: Trinity 42, Tufts 28
Sept. 25: Trinity 38, Bowdoin 14
Oct. 2: Trinity 28, Middlebury 0
Oct. 9: Trinity 34, Hamilton 7
Oct. 16: Trinity 45, Bates 7
Oct. 23: Trinity 35, Colby 12
Oct. 30: Trinity 42, Trinity 3
Nov. 6: Trinity 49, Amherst 7
Nov. 13: Trinity 14, Wesleyan 7
WESLEYAN (6-3)
Sept. 18: Wesleyan 21, Colby 5
Sept. 25: Wesleyan 30, Hamilton 14
Oct. 2: Wesleyan 27, Bates 24
Oct. 9: Wesleyan 38, Bowdoin 35
Oct. 16: Wesleyan 36, Tufts 35
Oct. 23: Wesleyan 24, Middlebury 0
Oct. 30: Amherst 16, Wesleyan 14 (40T)
Nov. 6: Williams 25, Wesleyan 0
Nov. 13: Trinity 14, Wesleyan 7
YALE (5-4)
Sept. 18: Holy Cross 20, Yale 17
Sept. 25: Yale 23, Cornell 17
Oct. 2: Yale 34, Lehigh 0
Oct. 9: Dartmouth 24, Yale 17
Oct. 16: UConn 21, Yale 15
Oct. 23: Yale 42, Penn 28
Oct. 30: Yale 37, Columbia 30